

Ciller sees hope of new Mideast

CAIRO (R) — Turkish Prime Minister Tansu Ciller met Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak in Cairo on Sunday and said a new Middle East could be in the making. But a solution to the Palestinian problem was a prerequisite for stability in the region, she told a joint news conference with Egyptian Prime Minister Atuf Sedki. "We feel the Palestinian issue has a priority and needs to be tackled first. Turkey believes the restructuring of Gaza and the West Bank is a must for the sake of stability and peace in the Middle East," she said. "We feel a new Middle East is a hope and that we should work upon it seriously," she added. She said her 90 minutes of talks with Mr. Mubarak "produced similar views on all topics discussed." Ms. Ciller, who arrived on Sunday morning, visited Israel and Gaza and held talks with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat (see page 2 and page 12).

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Lower House endorses peace treaty 55-23

Majali refutes opposition assertions, says Jordan has achieved honourable peace

By Ayman Al Safadi
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Lower House of Parliament on Sunday endorsed by a two-third majority the Jordanian-Israeli peace treaty which will go into effect as law after ratification by the Upper House of Parliament and His Majesty King Hussein signs it.

Fifty-five out of 79 deputies present voted in favour of the treaty when the vote was called after a two-day session in which 52 lawmakers took the floor to express their views on the accord, which was signed Oct. 26.

The 23 deputies who did not vote for the treaty were the 17 Islamic Action Front (IAF) deputies, leftist deputies Bassam Haddadin, Khaleel Haddadin, Mustafah Shneikat, Toujan Faisal and Saleh Shawateh, who is known to be close to the Fatah movement, and Talal Obaidat, whose stand came as a surprise to observers.

All deputies who did not vote for the treaty indicated their rejection of it in the speeches they gave during the debate.

Former House Speaker and Prime Minister Tahir Al Masi was absent from the session. Current Speaker Sa'd Hayat Srour did not vote.

The opposition had demanded that the House vote on a motion for rejecting the treaty, which the government presented to the legislature as a draft law, before it votes on it.

The Foreign Affairs Committee recommendation to endorse it but the legislature decided that such a move would violate the regulations of the House.

Deputy Abdul Kareem Al Dughmi said the regulations stipulate that such a vote be taken when the draft law is presented to the House and before it is referred to the committee.

Deputies first voted on the separate articles of the draft law before endorsing it in its entirety.

"Today is a day that will be remembered for democracy. It is the day of the Jordanian parliament," Mr. Srour said after officially announcing the result of the vote.

"This is a victory for shoura and democracy which we give as a present to His Majesty King Hussein," said Mr. Srour amidst applause from the galleries.

Leading IAF member Abdullah Al Akaileh told the Jordan Times after the vote the opposition's focus now will be on preparing a thorough programme for resisting normalisation of Jordanian-Israeli ties and the "coming Zionist invasion of our culture."

"I was not surprised by the result. We cannot but accept the decision of the majority in compliance with the democracy in which we live," Dr. Akaileh said, pointing out that the IAF had made clear its position on the treaty and warned against the ramifications for the country.

The Upper House of Par-



Deputies vote in favour of the Jordanian-Israeli peace treaty during Sunday's session of the Lower House of Parliament (photo by Yusef Al 'Allan)

liament will begin its debate of the treaty today, Monday, and it is certain that the 40-member Senate will endorse it.

In an address to the House before the vote was taken, Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali rejected opposition claims that the treaty fell short of realising Jordanian rights and has pushed Jordan away from the Arab World and closer to Israel.

The Prime Minister also sought to refute claims that Jordan had abandoned the cause of refugees and displaced persons, stressing that the treaty allows for the return of their full rights.

"We have achieved an honourable and just peace... the peace of dignity and vision," Dr. Majali told lawmakers.

Dr. Majali said the purpose of the negotiation process with Israel was the achievement of a peace that will lead to the regaining of the Kingdom's right.

He said the peace treaty produced that result, adding that it would have been illegal to refuse a solution that the Kingdom entered the peace talks to achieve.

Dr. Majali urged unified efforts to face the challenges of the future in which he said Jordan is positioned to play a

prominent role regionally and internationally.

He said the Kingdom would face the new challenges with emphasis on building its institutions and strengthening its democracy which urges the minority to respect the decision of the majority.

"Our national unity is too valuable to be jeopardised... and now we need more than ever to consolidate our solidarity and move on the same direction towards the promising future," Dr. Majali said.

The Prime Minister said Jordan will no longer remain silent against unjust accusations levelled against it re-

gardless of their source.

"We will protect the security and stability of Jordan... so that it remains the land of freedom, democracy, pluralism and respect for human rights," said Dr. Majali.

"Why do some people think that just peace will do away with our strength and shatter our abilities and will render us easy for Israel to dominate as if we do not exist and as if we have no weight, said the prime minister in response to remarks that Israel will dominate the region in times of peace.

He said after decades of war, peace will enable the Kingdom to pool its resources and develop society in a way that will enable it to face up to the challenges of the future.

Dr. Majali rejected opposition accusations that the Kingdom had moved alone towards peace with Israel to the detriment of other Arab parties to the negotiations.

"We held on to the (principle) of comprehensive solution. We struggled to maintain Arab solidarity and we realised that the pursued peace will be beneficial to all," said Dr. Majali.

But, he said, the Kingdom has never deceived itself to believe that it was responsible for all Arab rights because the Palestinians were determined to negotiate for their rights and the Lebanese, Syrians and the Lebanese.

"Any interference by us" in the Palestinian question was unacceptable to the Palesti-

nians, he said.

"We endured by postponing the regaining of (our) rights so that others would have a chance to reach their goals and you know what happened" and Jordan is not to blame for the lack of Arab coordination, Dr. Majali told lawmakers.

The prime minister said the decision to force peace was not an easy one and people will need time to adapt to the new situation. But, he said, Jordanians are people who believe in change and this country has witnessed so many experiences that rendered it able to protect itself in the midst of stronger nations.

"We were put under siege and remained steadfast and we were boycotted but, (with the leadership of King) Hussein and (the support of the people) we broke away from the boycott," he said.

Responding to criticism made by opposition deputies that the Kingdom had abandoned the causes of refugees and displaced persons, Dr. Majali said these accusations were groundless.

As for the displaced persons, those who left Palestine after the 1967 war, Dr. Majali said their situation will be discussed by the four-party committee that was agreed upon in the declaration of principles between the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and Israel.

The committee, which includes the PLO, Israel and Egypt in addition to the Kingdom, "will not be discus-

sing the principle of (the displaced persons) return, but methods that will be agreed upon to organise their return," Dr. Majali said.

The issue of refugees, he said, will be discussed on a bilateral level between Jordan and the PLO and on a trilateral level among the two sides and Israel. He said the issue will continue to be on the agenda of the refugees committee within the multilateral peace talks.

"The government has repeatedly emphasised that it sees in the issue of refugees a basic part of the Arab-Israeli dispute but Jordan cannot shoulder the responsibility of reaching a solution with Israel over this dangerous subject (unless the solution is reached) with the full agreement of the PLO," said Dr. Majali.

"We did not abandon the issue (of refugees)," Dr. Majali said, adding that only one quarter of the four million Palestinian refugees live in Jordan while the rest reside in Syria, Lebanon, Egypt, the West Bank, Gaza and other parts of the world.

The prime minister rejected opposition deputies' interpretation of the term "settling" which appeared in the accord in reference to the refugees to mean denying them the right of return.

He said the deputies confused the term with the Israeli demand of one of "re-settling" the refugees which would have meant that they

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Majali reports improved relations with Gulf states

Riyadh accepts Khalifeh as ambassador

AMMAN (Petra) — Saudi Arabia has accepted Hani Khalifeh to serve as Jordan's ambassador in Riyadh, Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali said in published comments Sunday. Dr. Majali also did not rule out the possibility of visiting one or two Gulf states in the near future.

In an interview with the Saudi newspaper Al Sharq Al Awsat, Dr. Majali said Jordan's relations were improving with Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates and Qatar and that contacts even at international conferences were becoming more cordial with the representatives of these countries.

"We continually extend our hand to our brothers for reconciliation and for a better future for all parties," Dr. Majali said. "I had offered the idea that we transcend our differences and or reschedule them along the economic way of dealing with things for a period of 10 years with a three-year grace period until we can reach reconciliation and later reopen the differences file again because right now we are going through crucial circumstances requiring an end to differences and a reconciliation."

"To this proposal we are receiving response from Saudi Arabia, which has informed us that 'our nomination of Mr. Khalifeh, former ambassador to Canada, was acceptable. This is good news.'"

Following is a translation of parts of Dr. Majali's interview with Al Sharq Al Awsat in a question-and-answer format:

Q: What are your expectations in the wake of the signing of the peace treaty with Israel?

A: "I believe that the stage that follows the signing of the treaty could be more critical than the state after a war because people have great expectations. We have to try to fulfil the people's aspirations. I believe there cannot be just and permanent peace as long as the average per capita income in Jordan continues to stand around \$1,200

a year while it is tens of times this figure in the neighbouring countries. Therefore there is need for changes in the economic sphere, changes that should be felt by the people. People's standard of living should be raised to acceptable norms. Of course this cannot be realised, through giving away money to the people but through investment projects in the country. It is true that we have unemployment but that it is "white-collar unemployment."

"If we compare the number of the unemployed with the guest workers we would find that we would still be in need of non-Jordanians even if the Jordanian jobseekers had taken up the available occupations. We also have poverty."

"The question is how can we deal with these two problems — unemployment and poverty. I believe that this cannot be handled by giving jobs in government offices to all the unemployed as the offices are already congested. The solution comes with investments, but capital is coward and capital holders can only be ready to invest in a climate of peace and stability. Now, after signing the treaty, our country will even enjoy more stability, motivating investors from Jordan and other countries."

"Investment is bound to create new jobs that would curtail poverty and unemployment and raise the standard of living."

"We have plans for different projects and we have submitted them to the Casablanca conference to seek help from all the friendly nations."

"We are also seeking to rid the country of its debt burden which has been shouldered as a result of bearing responsibilities for the region's stability. It was not Jordan's fault that such indebtedness has been accumulated. It came about as a result of the responsibilities on this country that have been larger than it could bear. So it turned to borrowing to build the Kingdom's infrastructure and to stand along the defence lines."

"Once Jordan gets rid of these issues, more economic growth will be achieved. We are ready and we have made plans for thousands of million dollars worth of projects and we have been promised assistance, especially from the United States."

"The U.S. commitment came from President Bill Clinton in his address to the Jordanian Parliament when he pledged that the U.S. will write off Jordan's debts to the United States and to help Jordan acquire material assistance for its projects."

Q: What about Jordanian opposition to the peace treaty?

A: "If we have no opposition we must seek to create one. We want to see an opposition that can show the government the other side of the equation in a constructive manner and not an opposition oriented towards destruction."

But regrettably there exists a part of the opposition that resorts to the use of such improper terms as atheism and treason."

"This government in contrast, has not resorted to similar terms. We also heard claims that the government does not tolerate any opposition in the media but this is untrue. All parties and the opposition issue their newspapers and have their columnists and analysts who exercise their free expression all the time without any opposition on the part of the government. In the official media we do not allow harsh terms to be used because it is a media for all people. As a government we are not a party working against the opposition parties."

"We hope the political parties will be strengthened and will have their own programmes and enter Parliament."

Q: What about Jordan's views regarding Jerusalem?

A: "There is no going back on our position. Our relationship with Jerusalem and the holy places are fundamental. We cannot abandon them for the unknown. Our responsibilities before and after 1967 have con-



Abdul Salam Majali

timed untouched.

"We will continue to shoulder these responsibilities until our Palestinian brothers can take them over in the final solution and we will offer them these responsibilities on a golden platter."

Q: What about Jordan's relations with Syria and Lebanon?

A: "We believe in a comprehensive solution for the Middle East conflict. We paused more than once in our process of negotiations with Israel to watch and see progress on the other tracks. We came under pressure and we sought coordination but the others failed to coordinate their position with us. This does not mean that we should stop at a standstill."

"Now, having regained our rights, we will be in a better position to help others attain theirs. We have no conflict with Syria and Lebanon, but we exert different degrees of efforts."

Q: What is your comment on His Majesty King Hussein's recent criticism of the local press and the local columnists?

A: "We have a press and publication law we have a code of honour among the journalists. They realise the red line which they should not cross as they could be harming national interests."

However, I regret to say that some journalists have acted in violation of these rules without regard to the damage to the country. Some criticise the ministers and say that corruption exists in Jordan. This is normally read abroad and is bound to have adverse consequences on the Kingdom."

"We want the journalists to work towards upholding national interests."

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Northern crossing opens Thursday

By P.V. Vivekanand
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — A crossing between Jordan and Israel in the north will be opened on Thursday and His Majesty King Hussein plans to hold talks with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin after the opening ceremony, officials said Sunday.

According to unconfirmed reports, the King might also pay a visit to Israel shortly after the opening of the crossing, the second between the Kingdom and the Jewish state which have signed a peace treaty ending a 46-year state of war.

Officials have said that King Hussein would not visit Israel until Parliament ratifies the treaty.

The first crossing between Jordan and Israel was opened near Aqaba and Eilat on Aug. 8, shortly after Jordan and Israel signed the Washington Declaration, which paved the way for the peace treaty that the two countries concluded on Oct. 26. The opening is limited to

third country nationals until the Jordanian-Israeli peace treaty is formalised into law.

The Washington Declaration called for two crossings, but the second was delayed because of technical reasons mostly on the Israeli side which had to be cleared of landmines — a legacy of the 1948 and 1967 war.

The bridge was damaged in both wars. Extensive repairs have been carried out at the site and facilities to accommodate immigration, customs and health formalities related to cross-border travel have also been built.

As the mid-October deadline for opening the crossing was not met, officials said, it was decided that the crossing would be opened after the Jordanian Parliament had ratified the peace treaty and the King signed into law.

A possible visit by the King to Israel also awaited the formalisation of the treaty, according to the officials.

There was no immediate word on whether the King was planning a visit to Jerusalem in his capacity as the

custodian of the Islamic holy shrines there.

The opening of the northern crossing near the Sheikh Hussein Bridge, which is expected to be named Green Valley Bridge or Peace Bridge, by Transport Minister Samir Kassar and his Israeli counterpart Yisrael Kasser, will also signal the launch of travel by Israelis and Jordanians to each other's countries. Permission to travel will have to be obtained through travel agents in both countries pending the establishment of diplomatic relations and opening of embassies in Amman and Tel Aviv.

Travel agents said they were told that the King Hussein Bridge across the River Jordan, the only crossing between Jordan and the occupied West Bank, will be available only for those who hold residence permits for the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

The reason behind such a move, they said, appeared to be Jordan's respect for the West Bank as Palestinian

territory which should not be used for travel between the Kingdom and Israel. No official was immediately available to confirm plans for the use of the King Hussein bridge.

Jordan is planning to reconstruct the Sheikh Hussein bridge and to widen it to accommodate four-lane traffic and upgrade an access road that links the bridge to the main Jordan Valley highway between North and South Shuneh. The project is estimated to cost about \$6 million and expected to be completed in 24 months.

Also planned is a highway to link the bridge with the Iraqi border at Ruweisah. This road will run from Ruweisah through Safawi, Mafrat and Irbid to meet the main Jordan Valley highway and onto the bridge. This medium-priority project, estimated to cost around \$150 million, is expected to offer an outlet to the Israeli port of Haifa for other countries in the Arabian Peninsula, as peace and stability take hold in the region.

Israel rejects Iraq's conciliatory comment

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres said on Sunday that Israel's problems with Iraq were with President Saddam Hussein, not the Iraqi people.

He was commenting on a statement by Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Tariq Aziz that Baghdad had no problems with the Jewish state and was no longer at war with it.

Asked by Israel Radio to respond, Mr. Peres said: "Our enemy is not Iraq, not as a state and not as a people. We have a real problem with Saddam Hussein, who is a man who cannot be trusted — not his words, not his promises, and not his positions," Mr. Peres said.

"There are no negotiations... direct or indirect negotiations are not being conducted and will not be conducted between Iraq and Israel."

Mr. Aziz made his remarks in an interview with the French monthly Le Monde Diplomatique. Asked why

Baghdad had kept silent about the Middle East peace process, Mr. Aziz replied: "We believe that we do not have to meddle in an issue to which we have not been associated."

"We have no bilateral conflict with Israel," he said in the brief interview with writer Eric Rouleau, a former French ambassador to Libya.

"Since our Arab brothers have decided to settle their disputes with Israel through negotiation, Iraq no longer regards itself as a 'confrontation state'," Mr. Aziz said.

Deputy Foreign Minister Yossi Beilin told reporters that Israel was ready to open talks with Baghdad if it applied U.N. Security Council resolutions.

Israel's Police Minister Moshe Shahal and Housing Minister Binyamin Ben Eliezer, both born in Iraq, reportedly established secret contact with Iraqi officials during the summer, but broke them off after U.S. complaints.

'Israel, Oman to launch relations'

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Israel and the Sultanate of Oman will shortly announce the opening of interest sections, the first step towards full diplomatic relations, officials said Sunday.

Deputy Foreign Minister Yossi Beilin flies to Muscat on Monday, said the officials who refused to be named. The announcement could come as early as Monday.

Oman will thus be the first Arab state in the Gulf to establish ties with the Jewish state.

The foreign ministry refused to confirm the report. Morocco has agreed to open a liaison bureau in Tel Aviv, which is a step higher on the diplomatic scale, while Israel has a similar bureau in Rabat.

Tunisia has also agreed to open an interest section in the Belgian embassy in Tel Aviv.

The sultanate was the sole Arab country which did not sever relations with Egypt in

1979 when Cairo signed a peace treaty with Israel.

Israel is also looking to open relations with Bahrain and Qatar in the near future following the signing of the September 1993 autonomy agreement with the Palestinians and the Oct. 26 peace treaty with Jordan.

In Muscat, a senior Omani official Sunday confirmed that Mr. Beilin would visit Oman Monday.

Mr. Beilin will meet Omani Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Yusef Ben Alawi Abdullah, an official said, without disclosing the purpose of the visit.

It will be Mr. Beilin's second visit to Oman. On an unprecedented trip in April he led an Israeli delegation to a session of multilateral Middle East negotiations on water resources.

On Thursday Omani Trade Minister Maqbul Ben Sultan denied Israeli reports that

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Belgian cardinal: Divorcees can have communion

BRUSSELS (R) — A Belgian cardinal said Sunday that divorcees should be allowed to receive Holy Communion.

Cardinal Jean-Marie Villot, president of the Belgian Bishops' Conference, said the church should not exclude divorcees from the sacrament of the Eucharist.

"The church should not be a club for the privileged," he said. "It should be a place where everyone can find God."

Cardinal Villot's statement came in response to a question about whether the church should allow divorcees to receive Communion.

He said that the church should not be a "club for the privileged" and that it should be a place where everyone can find God.

Fergie offered role on U.S. TV — papers

WASHINGTON (R) — Princess Diana's former lover, Andrew Fergie, has been offered a role on U.S. television, according to reports.

Fergie, who was married to Prince Andrew, is reportedly being considered for a role in a new television series.

The reports came as Fergie was in the United States for a promotional tour for his new book.

Fergie's agent said that he was in talks with several television networks about a potential role for him.

IFC ready to consider financing Jordan projects

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The International Finance Corporation (IFC), a body affiliated with the World Bank, stands ready to extend financing to industrial and infrastructure projects in Jordan with private sector participation, an IFC delegation has told Jordanian businessmen and industrialists.

The promise, coupled with a detailed explanation of how the IFC works and the parameters that guide its activities around the world, was made during a meeting here Saturday between the visiting IFC delegation and a group of Jordanian businessmen.

During the meeting, held at the Amman Chamber of Industry, IFC delegates Jamaluddin Kassam, vice president of operations, Andre Hobagumian, director of the Central Asia, Middle East and North Africa bureau, Sami Haddad, country manager, and Michael Dickson, the Cairo representative of the International Finance Corporation of America, exchanged views with Jordanian businessmen on economic prospects for Jordan in a state of peace and stability in the region.

The IFC delegation's visit comes in the wake of the breakthrough in the Jordanian-Israeli track of peace talks that has cleared the way for international financial bodies taking a new interest in the region after years of all-too-careful treading in the

absence of peace.

Despite the political instability and the absence of peace in the region, the IFC has financed several projects in Jordan, and the corporation now stood much more willing to consider multi-million projects in the private sector, Saturday's meeting was told.

The IFC stands ready to study financing for projects in the industrial sector, infrastructure projects with private sector participation and the tourism sector, the delegates said.

The IFC complements the work of commercial banks rather than competing with them, they explained. The outstanding advantage in IFC financing for any project is the additional trust and confidence instilled by the very fact that the international organisation is financing it.

The underlying factor here is the close scrutiny that the IFC conducts on any projects before committing itself to financing. This would mean establishing the commercial feasibility and soundness of the project, which in turn should be reassuring to investors as well as other financing institutions.

Welcoming the delegation, Chamber of Industry President Khalidoun Abu Hassan said he had met them on the fringes of the International Monetary Fund/World Bank meeting held in Madrid last month.

"After exchanging some views about economic prospects in Jordan and its role in

regional developments and enterprise, they expressed an immediate desire to visit Jordan to meet the forefront businessmen, widely responsible for shaping the economy of Jordan and its promising future," said Mr. Abu Hassan.

Mr. Abu Hassan briefly highlighted the economic approach of Jordan.

Through hard work and dedication, the country has developed "a promising framework for investment, especially in industry, which is now responsible for 20 per cent of the gross domestic product and 90 per cent of exports," Mr. Abu Hassan said.

Mr. Abu Hassan also noted that Jordan was speedily implementing reforms towards a free market-oriented economy with "the private sector in the lead."

"Challenges ahead are rife and acute," he said. "We can depend on our vigilant businessmen to face them steadfastly and gainfully."

"As you become more acquainted with them, the more you will discern their depth of determination... wide vision and future hopes and perspectives..." he told the IFC delegation.

It was not immediately known whether the IFC was considering any immediate projects for financing in Jordan. But a businessman who attended Saturday's meeting said discussions were under way on several proposals but it was too early to predict the outcome of the negotiations.

Cairo defends aid effort in flood-hit areas; doctors fear epidemics

CAIRO (Agencies) — The Egyptian government on Sunday defended its performance in helping the survivors of a fire and floods, as doctors warned of the risk of epidemics.

Prime Minister Atef Sedki, who said more than 500 people died in the disasters although an AFP toll put the figure at nearly 600, argued his government had done all it could to help survivors.

"The problem in Dronka is limited because they are already dead, limited in complaining, I mean. Who will complain? A dead man?" Dr. Sedki asked journalists.

Hundreds of Dronka residents died when flood waters carrying burning oil from a fuel depot swept through Assiut province village 400 kilometres south of Cairo last Wednesday.

Dr. Sedki said 302 people died in Dronka, while an AFP toll based on reports by police, hospital and rescue workers put the figure at 506. Survivors of the fire lashed out at the government saying they had received no compensation and few blankets, and accused local authorities of failing to take safety measures at the depot.

Rescue workers have ended their search for bodies in Dronka, as residents buried their dead in mass graves, and locals from surrounding towns and villages rushed to give food, shelter and money to help them recover.

A total of 588 people were listed dead after police reported that seven more died in further flooding overnight Saturday in the northern Nile Delta and the southern city of Aswan.

Dr. Sedki put the overall toll at "maybe a little more than 500."

Dr. Sedki said the government was still studying damage to homes, agriculture and livestock, but estimated it could surpass \$500 million.

The government would begin "immediately" to rebuild homes that would be completed within "three to four months," but for now the homeless will have to stay in tent camps set up by the military, he said.

"What else can we do?" Dr. Sedki asked.

The tents are "equipped with everything they need," Dr. Sedki said, adding that heating would be introduced to the tents "in a few hours" so the victims can face the winter.

"They have not the right to complain. They took every-

thing, they took clothing, they took food, tents, blankets," Dr. Sedki said after a meeting between Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak and Turkish Prime Minister Tansu Ciller.

Dr. Sedki lamented the fact that the government could not shelter people immediately in apartments as they did in when the 1992 earthquake shook mainly Cairo.

"We don't have them (apartments) in this region," Dr. Sedki said, referring to the south.

Meanwhile, Mahmoud Abdul Hamid, a doctor at Dar Al Salam hospital in southern Sobag province, warned of the "spread of epidemics because of the bodies of animals drowned in the floods."

Saudis pay \$330m for Gulf operation

RIYADH (AP) — Despite its tight financial position, Saudi Arabia has paid more than half the \$600 million cost of last month's U.S.-led military deployment to face down Iraq, Arab diplomats said Sunday.

The sources, speaking on condition of anonymity, said Riyadh's contribution was \$330 million and has already been turned over to Washington as a one-time payment.

The disclosures by the sources, who are close to the Saudi government, were the first on the financial aspects of last month's crisis.

That was triggered when Iraq deployed more than 64,000 troops, including elite Republican Guard divisions, north of the Kuwaiti border. Earlier estimates put the cost of rushing U.S. and allied air, sea and land forces to the Gulf at between \$500 million and \$1 billion.

The diplomats said that since the crisis has abated, with Iraq pulling back the troops, the kingdom did not foresee any continuous military buildup necessitating further payments.

Kuwait is believed to be shouldering about 40 per cent of the estimated \$600 million.

The emirate may choose to have a continued allied military presence on a regular basis, in which case it was expected to bear any additional expenses, the sources said.

Another alternative was to have a multinational fund cover the cost, in which case oil-consuming states must share the burden, the sources noted.

The Saudis contend that if a high-profile military presence is maintained by the United States, backed by Britain and other allies, it would be to protect the region's oil, two-thirds of the world's reserves.

Industrialised states like Canada, Japan, Germany and Italy, who have a direct stake in guaranteeing regional security, should share in paying the costs, according to Saudi thinking.

U.S. President Bill Clinton discussed the issue with King

Fahd during his six-country whistlestop tour of the Middle East last month.

Also discussed at the meeting at Hafir Al Batin was the U.S. administration's wish to preposition tanks, armoured vehicles, artillery and other equipment for a brigade-size unit of around 5,000 men and women in Saudi Arabia for such contingencies.

Kuwait and Qatar have already agreed to allow similar prepositioning.

The New York Times quoted a U.S. defence official as saying that the Saudis gave a reply that was taken to mean "no."

But the Arab diplomats said King Fahd told Mr. Clinton that he welcomed U.S. military equipment provided it was sold to the Saudi armed forces and that U.S. military personnel trained his forces.

The kingdom already hosts a U.S. composite wing of fighters, fighter-bombers and bombers as well as British and French squadrons at bases in Riyadh and Dhahran.

These warplanes have been deployed there since August 1992 to monitor the "no-fly zone" imposed then south of the 32nd Parallel in Iraq to protect Shiite Muslim rebels. Allied air strength in Saudi Arabia was reinforced during last month's crisis.

Saudi Arabia bore some \$60 billion of the cost of Operation Desert Storm four years ago, when King Fahd invited the U.S.-led coalition of 33 nations to drive Iraqi forces out of Kuwait and protect the kingdom.

The Gulf war costs, coupled with a slump in oil prices, has forced Saudi Arabia to slash government spending by 20 per cent this year, a measure expected to be extended through next year as well.

The kingdom's debt, mostly from the local market, is close to \$80 billion. Washington agreed earlier this year to a Saudi request to reschedule payment for military equipment worth \$9.2 billion over five years instead of two.

Turkey, Israel plan free trade deal

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Turkish Prime Minister Tansu Ciller said on Saturday her country would sign a free trade agreement with Israel by the end of the year.

"We made progress and we feel that a free trade agreement will come about between Israel and Turkey by the end of the month or hopefully by the end of the year," she told a joint news conference with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin.

Ms. Ciller, on an official visit to Israel, suggested the whole Middle East should eventually become a free trade area or even a common market.

Mr. Rabin said the leaders had signed a cooperation agreement to fight drug smuggling between the two countries.

Earlier on Saturday, a row almost erupted when Ms. Ciller met leading Palestinian figure Faisal Al Hussein at

Orient House, the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) headquarters in East Jerusalem where Palestinians often host foreign dignitaries.

Palestinians angered Israeli security men accompanying Ms. Ciller by barring them from entering the building. The Israelis said they would enter by force if members of the press were allowed in.

The tension was defused when neither the security men nor the journalists were let inside.

In a meeting with PLO leader Yasser Arafat in Gaza on Saturday, Ms. Ciller promised Turkey would help finance Palestinian projects including construction of an airport and a harbour in Gaza.

She was the first head of government to visit the Palestinian self-rule areas.

Mr. Rabin and Ms. Ciller also said Saturday they would not bow to terrorism.

Ms. Ciller and Mr. Rabin spoke during the opening of a regional business conference that drew some 1,000 participants, including representatives from Israel, Turkey, Tunisia, Egypt and Jordan.

"We, the people, the countries of the region, can make it what it used to be during Biblical times, the cradle of civilisation," Mr. Rabin told the conference.

Ms. Ciller, the first Turkish prime minister to visit Israel, said the countries of the Middle East "must get used to the idea that spending money on infrastructure is worthier than on arms."

Ms. Ciller on Saturday also toured the Al Aqsa and Dome of the Rock mosques in Jerusalem's walled Old City and met with Muslim religious leaders. Wearing a head scarf in line with Muslim tradition, Ms. Ciller said noon prayers at Al Aqsa.

Indonesian scholar urges Israel ties

JAKARTA (AFP) — Prominent Muslim scholar Abdurrahman Wahid said Sunday that it was now time for Indonesia, the world's largest Muslim nation, to consider diplomatic ties with Israel.

"These diplomatic relations are necessary to anticipate the future, following the growing improvement in the relations between Arab countries and Israel," Mr. Wahid said by telephone.

Mr. Wahid, who also heads the influential Indonesian Islamic scholars' organisation Nahdlatul Ulama (NU), said that the need for bilateral ties was even more pressing, given Indonesia's current position as head of the 11-nation Non-Aligned Movement (NAM).

Indonesia's frosty approach to Israel, he said, had been conditioned by past

enmity between Arab states and Israel, and pointed to recent accords between Israel and Egypt, the Palestinian state and Jordan as good reason for a softening of Indonesia's stance.

Despite the absence of relations, Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin made a brief secret visit to Indonesia in October 1993 to meet NAM Chairman and Indonesian President Suharto to brief him on developments in the Middle East peace process.

Mr. Wahid has recently drawn vocal criticism for visiting Israel last month at the invitation of the Harry S. Truman Institute, a think-tank at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem.

Mr. Wahid was part of a group of five, that included a senior researcher at the reli-

gious affairs ministry, Johan Effendi, and a former chairman of the Muhammadiyah Muslim movement, Habib Chirzin.

The group attended the peace accord signing between Jordan and Israel.

Mr. Muhammad said he issued a statement Saturday saying that its former chairman's participation in the trip was taken without the organisation's knowledge and he would therefore be reprimanded.

The foreign ministry has also expressed regret over the visit, complaining that it too had not been informed.

Muslim groups in the country have also roundly condemned four Indonesian journalists for visiting Israel in February, at Tel Aviv's invitation.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Kuwait to sell intercepted Iraqi fuel

KUWAIT CITY (AFP) — Kuwait has decided to sell a shipment of Iraqi fuel seized last month and to transfer the proceeds to the U.N. Gulf war compensation fund, a foreign ministry spokesman said Sunday. The U.N. Navy in the northern Gulf intercepted the Honduran-flagged tanker Mahroussa on Oct. 21 and diverted it to Kuwait for violating the U.N. embargo on Iraq. The spokesman told the state-run news agency KUNA that in keeping with U.S. Security Council resolutions, the Kuwaiti Oil Ministry would sell the fuel and pay the proceeds into the U.N. fund. The fund was set up to compensate victims of the August 1990-February 1991 Iraqi occupation of Kuwait. Its main resources are Iraqi assets frozen abroad. Captain Izzat Abdul Hadi Khafidha told a press conference last month that his tanker loaded 3.162 tonnes of diesel fuel from October 16 to 19 in the Iraqi port of Al Zubeir. The Mahroussa was intercepted under the U.N. embargo in force since Iraq's invasion of Kuwait.

Four Muslim extremists arrested in Istanbul

ISTANBUL (AFP) — Turkish police have arrested four Islamic extremists who allegedly organised a series of bombings and tried to murder a Turkish writer who has spoken out in favour of secularism, police said Sunday. They said the militants admitted being responsible for 27 bomb attacks in Istanbul between May and October, including explosions on May 19 in two Catholic churches. The militants who are suspected members of the extremist Islamic Front of Combatants of the Great Orient (IBDA-C) also allegedly placed a bomb on May 5 in a bookstore where Turkish writer Toktamis Ates was to autograph his books. The bomb failed to go off because of faulty wiring. Police said explosives were seized at the militants' hiding place during the arrests.

Egyptian science minister visits Israel

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Egyptian Science Minister Venice Kamel Gouda arrived in Israel on Sunday for a three-day

visit to boost cooperation between the two neighbours, officials said. Met at Ben Gurion airport by her Israeli counterpart Shulamit Aloni, Ms. Gouda was to tour high-tech companies and scientific research institutes.

Afghan commander, two sons assassinated

PESHAWAR (AFP) — An Afghan commander and governing council member in Afghanistan's eastern Ningarhar province has been killed in an ambush together with his two sons, local newspapers and Afghan sources said Sunday. Mohammad Arif and his sons were shot dead Saturday near the provincial capital of Jalalabad. The reports linked the attack to tribal rivalry. Arif belonged to Sayed Ahmad Gailani's moderate National Islamic Front of Afghanistan. He was head of Ningarhar's education department and an important member of the province's governing council, made up of representatives from various Afghan factions. Ningarhar, near the Pakistan border, has been relatively peaceful amid continued fighting in Kabul between rival parties since the fall of the communists in April 1992.

4 dead, dozens poisoned by mussels in Morocco

RABAT (AFP) — Four people have died and dozens been poisoned after eating contaminated mussels in Casablanca, a newspaper report said Sunday. L'Opinion newspaper said the mussels, sold by itinerant peddlars, had been harvested from polluted beaches. The deaths and non-fatal poisonings had been reported over the last few days. The newspaper added that Casablanca authorities moved Saturday to seize all mussels originating from Walidia beach south of the city. The seizures took sellers by surprise, notably in the central market which had just opened for business. L'Opinion published a Health Ministry statement warning the public not to eat mussels from areas not cleared by public health officials while the toxins were being analysed. "The clinical symptoms presented by the patients strongly suggest a toxin that is produced by a species of marine algae often encountered in the Atlantic Ocean," the statement added.

Floods damage finest sites in Valley of the Kings

LUXOR (AFP) — Several ancient sites damaged by the torrential rain over Egypt last week are among the finest and most important pharaonic tombs in the Valley of the Kings in the southern province of Luxor.

Floodwater seeped in to the temple of Sety I, the precincts of the Deir Al Bahari temple, and the tombs of Ramose, Tutankhamun, Thutmose III, Ramesses III and Monuemhat, said Mahmoud Nureddin, head of the Organisation of Egyptian Antiquities.

Mr. Nureddin said 150 workers were busy trying to pump water out of the temple of Sety I, which was also damaged by torrential rain last month.

Heavy rains hit southern Egypt on Wednesday, killing more than 550 people, most of them when water carrying burning oil swept through the village of Dronka north of Luxor.

Water also thundered down the mountains above the Valley of the Kings on the west side of the Nile 700 kilometres south of Cairo, crashing into thousand-year-old tombs which figure among Egypt's top tourist attractions.

Sety I, who ruled from 1312 to 1298 B.C., was the father of Ramesses II. His tomb is the largest and most elaborate in the Valley of the Kings, with all the colours of the wall murals intact.

The tomb has been closed for restoration work since the beginning of 1992 after slabs crumbled from the ceiling. The depth of the site makes it vulnerable to floods.

Ramose was vizier of Amenhotep III (1408-1372 B.C.), then served his son Amenhotep IV (1372-1354 B.C., better known as Akhenaten). His tomb is decorated with works from the time of Amenhotep III when Egyptian art was at its height.

The tomb walls illustrate in colour and detail Ramose's funeral procession, depicting weeping female mourners, offering scenes and catafalques bearing mummified bodies.

Floodwater also seeped into the tomb of Tutankhamun (1354-1345 B.C.), which was discovered in 1922 by Howard Carter with all the funeral treasures intact. The treasure is now in Cairo Museum but the boy-king's mummy remains in the tomb.

The tomb of Thutmose III (1505-1450 B.C.) is one of the most important and deepest sites at 30 metres in the Valley of the Kings.

Its walls are illustrated with scenes from the books of Hades, describing the soul's journey through the night.

The tomb of Ramesses III (1198-1166 B.C.), founder of the 20th dynasty, was also termed the harpy's tomb by early scholars. It is only nine to 10 metres below the ground.

Vivid engraved and painted scenes on tomb walls have been recently restored and protected by glass screens to give the impression they were painted yesterday.

The temple of Deir Al Bahari is the funeral temple of Hatshepsut (1505-1484 B.C.), the only woman to have reigned as pharaoh. Its name comes from a Christian monastery later set up within the monument.

JORDAN TELEVISION

7/3111-19

PROGRAMME TWO
17:00 Alice Au Pays Des Merveilles
17:30 Un Pour Tous
18:00 Le Vent Des Moutons
18:30 News in French
18:45 Magazine Sportif
19:00 New in Hebrew
19:15 Movies, Games, and Videos
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 Couch
21:10 Columbus and The Age of Discovery
22:00 News in English
22:30 Secrets of Lake Success

PRAYER TIMES

04:33 Fair
05:52 (Sunrise) Duhur
11:19 Duhur
14:39 Asr
16:47 Maghrib
18:06 Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church
Switzerland, Tel. 810740
Assembly of God Church, Tel. 637783
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440
De la Saie Church Tel. 661757

TERMINALS

Terminal 1 Church Tel. 622466
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541
Anglican Church Tel. 630851, Tel. 628543
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751
Armenian International Church Tel. 625253
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 824328
German-speaking Evangelical Congregation Tel. 694195
The Lutheran Day Centre Tel. 654932
Church of Nazareth Tel. 675691
The Evangelical Local Church in Amman Tel. 812395

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.
The effect of the depression will persist with temperatures continuing to drop slightly and winds becoming westerly moderate. In Aqaba, skies will be partly cloudy and there will be a chance of scattered showers. Winds will be southerly active and seas rough after becoming northerly moderate and seas calm.
Min./Max. temp.
Amman 7/14
Aqaba 15/24
Deserts 7/17

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

Jordan Valley

14/21
Yesterday's high temperatures:
Amman 16, Aqaba 28 Humidity readings: Amman 69 per cent, Aqaba 40 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:
Dr. Ghaleb Zawaidah 736011
Dr. Yousef Nae 751144
Dr. Fakher Belbachi 663412
Dr. Khalidoun Asfour 898140
Fire pharmacy 661912
Ferdows pharmacy 778336
Al Asana pharmacy 637055
Najm pharmacy 626072
Al Satam pharmacy 636730
Yacoub pharmacy 644945
Shamsi pharmacy 637660
Najm pharmacy 626072
Najm pharmacy 847632
IBRD:
Dr. Mohammad Hila 279773
Aljoudi pharmacy (-)
ZARQA:
Dr. Walid Haluschi 982799
Khalid pharmacy 985417

EMERGENCIES

Food 637111
Control Centre 637111
Civil Defence Department 641111
Civil Defence Emergency 630241
Rescue Police 192, 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade 617101
Blood Bank 775121
Highway Police 843402
Traffic Police 896390
Public Security Department 63021
Hotel Complaints 608800
Police Complaints 661176
Water and Sewerage 897467
Complaints 787111
Ammann Municipality 623101
Repairs 623101
Abdali Telephone Repairs 661101
Jordan Television 771111
Radio Jordan 774111
Water Authority 680100
Jordan Electricity Authority 815615
Electric Power Company 636381
RJ Flight Information 05-53200
Gouda & Al-Jalal 53200

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:
Hussein Medical Centre 81381332
Khalid Maternity, J. Amn 642816
Akil Maternity, J. Amn 642412
Jabal Amman Maternity 642363
Malhas, J. Amman 636140
Palestine, Shamsi 664114
Shamsi Hospital 669131
University Hospital 845845
Al-Muasher Hospital 667279
The Islamic, Abdali 661279
Al-Ahli, Abdali 6641646
Italian, Al-Muasher 7771013
Al-Basir, J. Ashrafieh 7751126
Army, Marja 8916115
Queen Alia Hospital 60224050
Amal Hospital 674155
ZARQA:
Zarqa Govt. Hospital (09)983233
Zarqa National Hospital (09)905660
Ibn Sina Hospital (09)986732
Al Hilma Modern Hospital (09)909990
IBRD:
Princess Basma Hospital (02)25555
Greek Catholic Hospital (02)727275
Ibn Al Nafes Hospital (02)947100
AQABA:
Princess Haya Hospital (06)314111

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (08)322025, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)
08:00 Sanaa (RJ)
08:30 Beirut (RJ)
08:30 Jeddah (RJ)
08:30 Amsterdam, Chicago (RJ)
08:30 London (RJ)
10:00 Frankfurt (RJ)
10:00 Cairo (RJ)
10:00 Bahrain, Doha (RJ)
10:00 Dhahran (RJ)
10:00 Abu Dhabi (RJ)
10:00 Damascus (RJ)
10:00 Doha, Muscat (RJ)
08:00 Sanaa (RJ)
08:30 Beirut (RJ)
08:30 Jeddah (RJ)
08:30 Amsterdam, Chicago (RJ)
08:30 London (RJ)
10:00 Frankfurt (RJ)
10:00 Cairo (RJ)
10:00 Bahrain, Doha (RJ)
10:00 Dhahran (RJ)
10:00 Abu Dhabi (RJ)
10:00 Damascus (RJ)
10:00 Doha, Muscat (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

09:30 Cairo (MS)
09:30 Khartoum (SD)
12:35 Muscat, Abu Dhabi (GF)
14:00 Huddah (Y)
14:30 Kiev (GU)
17:00 Rome (AZ)
17:00 Paris (AF)
18:15 Doha (EK)
01:10 Amsterdam (KL)

DEPARTURES

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)
05:45 Beirut (RJ)
07:00 Jeddah (RJ)
07:00 Amsterdam, Chicago (RJ)
07:00 London (RJ)
10:00 Frankfurt (RJ)
10:00 Cairo (RJ)
10:00 Bahrain, Doha (RJ)
10:00 Dhahran (RJ)
10:00 Abu Dhabi (RJ)
10:00 Damascus (RJ)
10:00 Doha, Muscat (RJ)
08:00 Sana

Chirac needs balancing act for presidential election campaign

PAIRS (R) — Paris Mayor Jacques Chirac, the first major candidate for the French presidency, will need to achieve a tricky balancing act in his uphill campaign ahead of next year's election, analysts said Sunday.

Trailing in opinion polls behind fellow-Gaullist Prime Minister Edouard Balladur, he will have to tread a fine line between support and criticism of the government if he is to make up his handicap without appearing as the right's divider.

"The Paris Mayor-Elysee candidate will have to reverse the trend quickly or throw in the towel," the weekly Journal Du Dimanche said in an editorial headlined "Battling Jack."

Analysts said Mr. Chirac had little choice but to jump into the ring to offset the

prime minister's higher profile. But he risked a burnout in a lonely marathon of shadow-boxing against opponents who have pledged not to say until next January whether they will join the fray.

The first survey since Mr. Chirac threw his hat into the ring last Friday, 170 days ahead of the April 23-May 7 election, showed his boldness paid off. His standing jumped to 15 per cent from 10 per cent, while Mr. Balladur's dropped to 16 from 20 per cent.

But the IFOP poll showed that European Commission President Jacques Delors, the likely Socialist candidate, stood to gain most from the feud in the right. Mr. Delors' standing surged to 19 per cent, ahead of Mr. Balladur's, although the 65-year-

old conservative premier remained the favourite to win the election.

Mr. Chirac, 61, was expected to unveil the main planks of his campaign Sunday in a television interview, his first public statement since announcing his third presidential bid.

Commentators noted his line was unclear and the integration of France's economy in the European Union left little room for manoeuvre.

"French people know Chirac is Chirac... but they cannot find out who is Chirac," the left-wing daily Liberation said.

They, and neither he, have not been able to find out if he is a hardline Thatcherite or a Labourite, it said.

mid-1980s. Mr. Chirac successively promoted state-driven industries and privatisations, and analysts say he does not hold deep economic beliefs.

Despite nationalistic and Euro-sceptical rhetoric, he has in practice promoted European integration.

In his manifesto-style book A New France last June, he voiced scepticism of European Monetary Union and called for the fight against unemployment to take precedence over current tight budget and strong franc policies, relying on economic growth to sustain the currency.

The influential daily Le Monde said this would trigger a run on the franc and force a hike in French interest rates, hurting growth.

'Diana wants new husband, more children'

LONDON (Agencies) — Princess Diana is determined to remarry and have more children some day, even though there is no immediate question of divorce from the Prince of Wales, extracts from a new biography published Sunday said.

"She is absolutely hell-bent on finding another man at some stage," journalist Andrew Morton quoted an unidentified friend of the princess as saying in the book Diana, Her New Life which began serialisation in the Sunday Times.

"There is nobody in mind but she does have a vision." The book is seen as the princess's riposte to Prince Charles's side of the story of the break-up of their marriage, also serialised in the Sunday Times last month.

It paints her as increasingly isolated, occasionally suicidal, still prey to the eating disorder bulimia and believing in astrological prophecies which say she will eventually live in France and become involved with a man born there.

Mr. Morton said the princess, 33, was also obsessed by her husband's relations with his mistress Camilla Parker-Bowles and frequently asked her astrologer to cast her rival's horoscope.

She had become fascinated with reincarnation, prophecy and spiritualism, and believed that in a previous life she had been a nun.

Mr. Morton also said Princess Diana hoped Prince Charles, 46 this month, would not succeed his mother Queen Elizabeth but would stand aside in favour of their elder son. It described the couple's battles over sons Prince William, 12, and Prince Henry, 10, saying she had threatened to flee with them to Australia but was reminded that constitutionally the final word on their future lay with the queen.

Mr. Morton said Princess Diana's relations with the royal family, which she has dubbed "the leper colony," were still extremely strained.

If the couple divorced, the princess would get half her husband's fortune, including his £20 million (\$32 million) in investments and half his annual income estimated at £4 million, Mr. Morton said.

The book said Princess Diana would return to public life next year to preside over the 125th anniversary of the British Red Cross Society. "I'm coming back with a vengeance," it quoted her as saying.

Diana, Her New Life, is Mr. Morton's seventh book on the British royal family. His last one, published in 1992, revealed the difficulties of the Wales' marriage and was followed within six months by their separation.

Translated into 27 languages, Diana, Her True Story sold five million copies and is estimated to have earned its 40-year-old author some £7 million.

Meanwhile, crowds applauded Princess Diana on a rare public engagement Saturday.

The glamorous mother of two, who has largely retired from official duties following her 1992 separation from her husband Prince Charles, attended a concert in the Welsh capital Cardiff to commemorate wartime servicemen.

S. African liberal churchman murdered

PRETORIA (R) — South African liberal theologian Johan Heyns was shot dead at his home in a possible assassination by white rightists, police said Sunday.

The murder late Saturday night outraged political and religious leaders, including Anglican Archbishop Desmond Tutu and President Nelson Mandela, who had worked closely with Prof. Heyns to promote peace during the country's transition to democracy.

Police offered a 100,000 rand (\$28,000) reward for information about his death.

A police spokesman said Prof. Heyns died instantly when he was hit in the head with a single high-calibre rifle

bullet fired through the window of his suburban house near Pretoria as he played cards with relatives.

"At this stage police are dealing with the case as if it were an assassination," the spokesman said.

Prof. Heyns, 66, was a respected theology lecturer who championed the anti-apartheid movement while leading the Dutch Reformed Church, the country's main Afrikaans church.

He aroused the hatred of rightist extremists by calling for racial reconciliation in the final years of white minority rule which ended with democratic elections last April.

Asked whether white rightists could have murdered Prof. Heyns, a police source

said: "Police will be investigating that angle."

A neighbour, David Strauss, who saw Prof. Heyns two hours before he was shot, told Reuters the theologian had previously mentioned threats to his life. He gave no details.

Mr. Mandela called Prof. Heyns a "soldier of peace" whose death was a loss for the entire country.

"It is with shock and outrage that I've heard of the cold-blooded murder of professor Johan Heyns," Mr. Mandela said, addressing Hindu leaders at a religious celebration in Durban.

Arch. Tutu said: "The Anglican Church is deeply shocked at the brutal murder of Professor Heyns."



Sightseers watch from a viewing platform the rain which has caused much flooding in the raging waters of the River, swollen by heavy south of France (AFP photo)

French floods close Nice Airport

NICE (AFP) — Nice Airport was shut down Sunday for at least 24 hours after floods inundated the international passenger terminal, while three people died and two were reported missing in weather-related accidents in other parts of France, officials said.

In Rome, Civil Defence officials said four people died Saturday as rain battered northwestern Italy for the second day in a row.

Authorities at Nice Airport said air traffic would be interrupted until at least 6 a.m. Monday so rescue teams could clean out the basement

of the international terminal, standing 1.6 metres (five feet) deep in water after the Var River overflowed Saturday.

Departure lounges on the main floor were covered in 30 centimetres (one foot) of mud, and telephone and computer equipment was out of order.

Many underground parking lots in the area were also flooded and part of the A-8 autoroute was closed although the water was receding Sunday.

In Corsica, a torrent swept away a motorist late Saturday night, while in Lozere, in the

Cevennes, a farmer drowned Friday and the Tarnon River swept away three women in a car. Rescue workers found the body of one of the women Sunday.

In Italy, Civil Defence officials said four people died Saturday in the province of Cuneo, near the French border, in accidents caused by heavy rain.

Two were killed in Claverana when their car was swept away after a bridge over the Tanaro River collapsed, while a third person died in a landslide at Torre Mondovi.

Friends, foes rally after Reagan diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease

LOS ANGELES (R) — Political friends and foes alike rallied around former U.S. President Ronald Reagan after he announced Saturday he has been diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease, an incurable, mind-crippling disorder.

At a Democratic campaign rally in Oakland, California, U.S. President Bill Clinton said Mr. Reagan's announcement "touched my heart in a particular way." He asked his audience to give Mr. Reagan "a hand as he deals with this disease" and led the crowd in a round of thunderous applause.

Mr. Reagan's Vice President and White House successor, George Bush, said in a statement: "I salute President Reagan for his courage and sharing this private matter with the American people."

Former President Gerald Ford and his wife Betty said: "We are terribly sorry. We will be very supportive and wish the Reagan family the very best."

Mr. Reagan's doctors said the 83-year-old Republican ex-president was in the early stages of the disease, which affects millions of people all over the world, and while he

is now in otherwise good health, "as the years go on it will begin to deteriorate."

"I now begin the journey that will lead me into the sunset of my life," Mr. Reagan, one of the most popular presidents of modern times, said in a poignant, two-page handwritten letter to the American people. "I know that for America there will always be a bright dawn ahead."

California Governor Pete Wilson, a former Republican U.S. senator and a close friend and ally of Mr. Reagan, said during a campaign stop in central California: "I wish him God speed and I hope that his doctors can give him and Mrs. Reagan comfort and hope."

President Clinton Saturday praised Mr. Reagan but suggested there may have been signs of the former president's Alzheimer's disease when the two men first met in November 1992.

Speaking at the rally in Oakland, Mr. Clinton recalled that during a meeting with Mr. Reagan shortly after he had won the presidential election, the former president expressed annoyance at his memory loss.

"It was a fascinating conversation, but once in the middle of a conversation, he said, 'I forgot what I was talking about and it really makes me mad,'" Mr. Clinton said.

"We've disagreed on a lot of things over the years," he said of Mr. Reagan, "but he always fought with a sense of optimism and spirit."

"And I have to say that he's been willing to put partisanship aside, to stand up for our country," Mr. Clinton said, noting the former president's support for the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) and his backing of legislation imposing limits on handgun purchases.

Mr. Reagan, who survived a 1981 assassination attempt and later underwent surgery to remove fluid from the brain, said he and his wife, Nancy, chose to go public with his condition to focus public attention on the ravages of Alzheimer's.

The disease, which afflicts four million Americans and 15 million people worldwide, is a progressive, irreversible brain disorder marked by a gradual onset of memory loss, disorientation, impaired judgment and personality

change.

Patients in the early stages can experience rage and depression as they helplessly watch their own deterioration, and loved ones often feel a painful sense of helplessness.

"I have recently been told that I am one of the millions of Americans who will be afflicted with Alzheimer's disease," Mr. Reagan wrote.

"We feel it is important to share it with you," said Mr. Reagan, a former B-movie actor who was known as "the great communicator" while in office from 1981 to 1989.

"In opening our hearts, we hope this might promote greater awareness of this condition."

"Perhaps it will encourage a clearer understanding of the individuals and families who are affected by it," he added. In recent years, as the U.S. population has aged, Alzheimer's has been the focus of increasing medical research.

Mr. Reagan said: "At this moment, I feel just fine. I intend to live the remainder of the years God gives me on this earth doing the things I have always done."

But the former movie star,



Ronald Reagan

who has kept a low profile since leaving office, also appeared resigned to what lies ahead.

Unfortunately as Alzheimer's disease progresses, the family often bears a heavy burden," he said. "I only wish that there was some way I could spare Nancy from

this painful experience."

Mr. Reagan's personal physicians said in a statement that they first began to notice symptoms a year ago and recently diagnosed him in the early stages of disease after a series of examinations at the world-famous Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota.

It said he was paroled for admitting his guilt and for good behaviour in prison.

The agency said Tuddain Namzhub, 67, a Lama (monk) of the Jokhang Monastery, was sentenced to nine years from Dec. 15, 1987 for trying to split the nation and was paroled for obeying prison management and regulations.

Chung Bdag, a 38-year-old woman, was sentenced to seven years in June 1989 for the same offence and was released early because of her good behaviour in prison, it said.

It said Cawang Baindain, 62, a farmer, was sentenced to five years in January 1993 by a Lhasa court for the same crime, with the term starting on Dec. 6, 1991.

He was paroled for recognising his guilt and obeying prison management and rules, the agency added.

Aristide reviews 750 police personnel

PORT-AU-PRINCE (AFP) — President Jean-Bertrand Aristide Saturday landed the deployment of the first 750 members of the Transitional Police Force organised to maintain order as Haiti tries to establish democratic rule.

"I agree with each Haitian who agrees to help us put order in the streets in a spirit of mutual respect," Mr. Aristide told the group as he spoke in the local Creole dialect.

The transition force is composed of members of the existing police force selected by a special commission and screened for serious human

rights abuses.

The transitional police will be on patrol until new officers graduate from the National Police Academy that is scheduled to open in January.

In addition to Mr. Aristide, interim Haitian military leader General Jean-Claude Duvalier, U.S. Ambassador William Swing, Canadian Ambassador Francis Miles Filice and U.S. General David Meade, who heads U.S. operations in Haiti, attended the ceremony.

U.S. troops have been in Haiti since mid-September, securing the nation for Mr.

Aristide's return Oct. 15. Mr. Aristide had been in exile since a bloody September 1991 coup, by military leaders threw him out of office.

Members of the police force — which was part of the Haitian army during the three-year military reign — have been accused of committing serious human rights abuses including rape, murder and torture.

U.S. and international efforts are now focused on separating the police force from the army and retraining screened personnel to provide civil authority under a democratic government.

Albanians vote on new constitution

TIRANA (R) — Albanians went to the polls Sunday with some two million citizens eligible to vote in a referendum on a controversial new constitution.

The plebiscite is the first serious political challenge to the ruling Democratic Party of President Sali Berisha, in power since April 1992 when he beat the ex-Communists in a general election.

Sunday's polling was being monitored by Western obser-

vers, including representatives of the Council of Europe and the U.S. Republican Institute.

A total of 4,614 polling stations opened at 8 a.m. (0700 GMT). First voting trends were not expected before Monday.

Given the lack of modern communications in this rugged country of three million people, the final result was unlikely to emerge for several

days.

Predictions of the outcome vary according to their origin.

A Democratic Party survey said some 72 per cent would vote in favour, 14 per cent against, 13 per cent would abstain and one per cent would cast invalid ballots.

A survey carried out by an opposition periodical forecast that 70 per cent of the population would vote "no."

China frees 8 political prisoners

BEIJING (R) — China said Sunday it had released four people imprisoned for inciting anti-government activities during 1989 and also freed four Tibetans sentenced for advocating the region's independence.

A bloody military crackdown on pro-democracy student protests in Beijing in June 1989 was followed by the arrest and sentencing of many supporters of the protest nationwide.

Xinhua News Agency named the first four as Wang Xinglong, Ge Hu, Leng Wanbao and Wu Zhaoqiang and said they had been released on parole or on bail for medical treatment.

It said the four Tibetans released on parole or with sentences commuted included a monk, a teacher and a farmer, the releases all took place "late", the agency said.

Mr. Wang, 49, a teacher at Shanxi University, was sentenced to serve eight years from June 16, 1989. Xinhua said he was granted parole "because he deepened understanding of his crime and behaved well in prison."

The human rights group Asia Watch said in a recent report that Mr. Wang, an assistant professor of political studies, had suffered a steady decline in health over the last three years.

Xinhua said Ge, 35, a college teacher also in Shanxi, was sentenced to seven years from June 12, 1989. It said that in prison he obeyed regulations and was bailed for medical treatment.

Asia Watch said Mr. Ge's health worsened in prison and he lost the sight of his right eye in 1993.

Xinhua said Mr. Leng, 34, a worker in the northeastern city of Changchun, was sentenced to eight years from June 10, 1989. He was given parole for his "good attitude" in recognising his crime and his good behaviour, it said.

It said Mr. Wu, 27 and unemployed, was sentenced to seven years by a court in Beijing. In February 1993 his term was commuted by 10 months. He was paroled because he gained understanding of his crime and behaved well in prison, it said.

Of the Tibetans Xinhua

said Yulo Dagwacering, 65, a teacher at Tibet University, was sentenced to 10 years from Dec. 16, 1987 for inciting anti-government activities and trying to split the country.

It said he was paroled for admitting his guilt and for good behaviour in prison.

The agency said Tuddain Namzhub, 67, a Lama (monk) of the Jokhang Monastery, was sentenced to nine years from Dec. 15, 1987 for trying to split the nation and was paroled for obeying prison management and regulations.

Chung Bdag, a 38-year-old woman, was sentenced to seven years in June 1989 for the same offence and was released early because of her good behaviour in prison, it said.

It said Cawang Baindain, 62, a farmer, was sentenced to five years in January 1993 by a Lhasa court for the same crime, with the term starting on Dec. 6, 1991.

He was paroled for recognising his guilt and obeying prison management and rules, the agency added.

S. African radio station releases 220,000 balloons

JOHANNESBURG (AFP) — A South African radio station released 220,000 balloons over a popular shopping centre to thank its listeners for pledging 1.2 million rand (\$304,000) to child welfare. Independent Radio 702 said it also hopes to break the African record for mass balloon releases with its effort. One balloon was released for every five rand (\$1) pledged, a spokesman for the station said.

6-page Lennon letter unmasks bitter feud

LOS ANGELES (AP) — After the breakup of the Beatles, John Lennon wrote a six-page letter to Paul and Linda McCartney that reveals deep anger and bitterness over the couple's rejection of Yoko Ono. The undated letter is Lennon's reaction to a note Linda McCartney wrote that chided him for critical remarks he made in interviews after the group's acrimonious 1970 breakup. "I hope you realise what (expletive) you and the rest of my kind and unselfish friends laid on Yoko and me since we have been together," Lennon wrote in the letter that will be sold during a Dec. 3 sale at the Butterfield and Butterfield Auction House. "Linda — if you don't care what I say, shut up let Paul write or whatever," Lennon continued. The name of the owner of the letter, which is expected to bring up to \$60,000, wasn't released by the auction house. Linda McCartney's dislike for Ono apparently stemmed from personality differences, and Lennon resented that. The Encyclopedia of Pop Rock and Soul states that fans believed Yoko Ono exerted too much influence on Lennon, and that contributed to the band's breakup. However, members of the group also were taking independent paths in their artistic development, which may have contributed to the breakup. At one point, Lennon wrote to Linda McCartney: "They ask me about Paul and I answer — I know some of it gets personal — but whether you believe it or not — I try to answer straight — and the bits they use are obviously the juicy bits — I don't resent your husband — I'm sorry for him. 'I know the Beatles are quite nice people' — I'm one of them — they're also just as big bastards as anyone else, so get off your high horse," Lennon wrote, exhorting Linda not to act so superior. Lennon concluded with, "Love to you both, from us two."

Muriel dethrones the Desert Queen at film awards

MELBOURNE, Australia (AFP) — Muriel edged out Priscilla at the prestigious Australian Film Institute (AFI) awards here. The bitter-sweet comedy, Muriel's Wedding, took top honour of Best Feature film at the ceremonies. The public choice at the Cannes Film Festival, the Adventures of Priscilla: Queen of the Desert, had been tipped for big gongs but managed only two awards from its nine nominations. This fabulous road musical about two drag queens and a transsexual who travel across Australia to perform at an outback hotel has been a hit at the Cannes, Seattle and San Francisco film festivals, and a slam dunk at the box office. But plaudits here were muted and it took out only the awards for best costume design and best production design.

Muriel's Wedding scooped the pool. Directed by P.J. Hogan, it follows the story of dowdy and plump Muriel Heslop who believes she must get married in order to be successful and flee her dreadful family life. Like Priscilla, it features ABBA music and other 1970s hits and has reaped millions at the box office. Toni Collette won best actress for her portrayal of Muriel, while Rachel Griffiths took supporting actress award and the film collected the accolade for best achievement in sound. The surprise of the night was the bleak urban comedy, Bad Boy Bobby, which clinched four awards. Among them was best actor award won by Nicholas Hope for his portrayal of Bobby, who ventures out to Adelaide's streets after being locked in a room for 35 years by his abusive mother. Rolf de Heer won two awards for Bad Boy Bobby — best director and best original screenplay.

Rebels do

Parties in

WASHINGTON (R) — Democrats and Republicans made their political parties' sides Sunday night at what could be the most emotional and divisive election since the Vietnam War. Republican President George H.W. Bush and Vice President Dan Quayle were re-elected to a second term, defeating Democrat Bill Clinton and Vice President Al Gore.

Clinton, who had led in the polls for much of the campaign, said he was "heartbroken" by the result. He said he would "continue to work for the people of this country" and "remain committed to the values that have made America a great nation."

Bush, who had trailed Clinton in the polls, said he was "proud" of the result. He said he would "continue to work for the people of this country" and "remain committed to the values that have made America a great nation."

The election was one of the closest in U.S. history, with Clinton leading in the popular vote but losing to Bush in the electoral college. Clinton won 37.1 per cent of the popular vote, while Bush won 36.6 per cent. Gore won 20.7 per cent.

The election was also one of the most controversial, with Clinton's victory in the popular vote being overturned by the electoral college. This has happened only five times in U.S. history.

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S. African radio station releases 220,000 balloons

JOHANNESBURG — A South African radio station released 220,000 balloons over a period of two days to mark the 10th anniversary of the end of apartheid. The balloons were released from a hot air balloon and were seen from all over the country. The balloons were white and had the words "Freedom" and "Apartheid is a Crime" written on them.

6-page Lennon letter unmask bitter feud

LONDON — A 6-page letter written by John Lennon in 1971, which was discovered by a fan, has unmasked a bitter feud between Lennon and his wife Yoko Ono. The letter, which was written to a friend, revealed that Lennon was angry with Ono for not supporting him more during his career. The letter also mentioned that Lennon was considering leaving Ono.



Angolans gather in a refugee camp near Sao Pedro market outside Huambo. Despite a pre-peace agreement the government forces continue to advance to the south western Angolan town in an attempt to capture the rebel headquarters in Huambo (AFP photo)

Rebels down Angolan MiG over Huambo

LISBON (R) — UNITA rebels shot down an Angolan government MiG jet as government troops advanced to within 15 kilometres of the rebel stronghold of Huambo Sunday, Portugal's national TSP Radio reported. "After some intense anti-aircraft fire (this morning), UNITA succeeded in shooting down one of two MiG jets flying over the city," TSP correspondent Emilio Fernando said in a telephone interview from Huambo. Fernando, the only foreign journalist reporting regularly from inside Huambo, said the city had been rocked by explosions and bursts of machine gun fire since the early morning. Machine gun fire and the cheering of UNITA troops as the MiG was shot down could be heard in the background as he talked. "Huambo continues to be on red alert. There are UN-



Angolan rebel troops move an anti-aircraft forces in the Senhora Do Monte Mountains in gun some seven kilometres from government the Caala region, southwest of Huambo (AFP)

U.N. reports bitter fighting for northwest Bosnian town

SARAJEVO (R) — Fighting in Bosnia increased sharply Sunday when rivals fought pitched battles on several fronts and forced NATO planes to fly over and silence guns threatening a Sarajevo truce. The struggle for Bosanska Krupa in northwest Bosnia continued Sunday with both the Muslim attackers and the city's Serb defenders suffering heavy casualties, the United Nations reported. "There was heavy fighting in Bosanska Krupa with an unspecified number of heavy casualties on both sides," U.N. spokesman Major Herve Gourmelon told Reuters. Government forces have been attacking the town since launching an offensive 11 days ago, forcing the Serbs to retreat in northwest and central Bosnia and taking some 250 square kilometres of territory in the Bihac pocket alone. The multi-pronged Muslim assault in northwestern, central and eastern Bosnia severely stretched limited Bosnian Serb manpower and hampered the move of their armour, forcing them to the first in the 31 month old war to yield large swathes of territory to their hitherto poorly-armed foes. The Bosnian Serb parliament will meet Wednesday at noon to endorse the decision by the supreme command to impose a martial law across the 70 per cent of Bosnia they hold, parliament secretary Milos Savic told Reuters. The move is designed, together with an all-out mobilisation now in place, to counter Serb military setbacks. But the Serbs appear to have reversed some of the Muslim gains and emerged on the main road leading to Bihac town, just 18 kilometres from the regional capital. The Serbs claim to have taken Ripac and Pitoka 15 kilometres east of Bihac Sunday morning, Yugoslav News Agency, Tanjug, reported. These, and the whole of the pocket, were severely shelled Saturday but the U.N. could not confirm the Serb gains and said the fierce activity in the zone had dropped overnight. Maj. Guermelon said Cemerska Planina, north of



A Bosnian-Muslim woman (centre) leans with her father (left) at the gravestone at the grave of her sister during a funeral ceremony. The 26-year-old sister was killed three days ago at the frontline at Mount Bjelasnici overlooking Sarajevo. She was serving as a military doctor in the Bosnian government army (AFP photo)

NATO airpower, warnings from liaison officers and meetings between senior U.N. military commanders were judged to have been successful in restoring calm by the early hours of the morning, Capt. Sochacki said. Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic blamed the U.N. Protection Force for escalation in fighting, saying it had not fulfilled its obligations. "UNPROFOR bears enormous responsibility for the inevitable escalation of the war," Mr. Karadzic said in a letter to U.N. special envoy, Yasushi Akashi obtained by Reuters. He said Muslim-led Bosnian government troops abused "the protected areas which have never been demilitarised and serve in fact as armed strongholds and springboards for launching military offensives against the Serbs." Mr. Karadzic said UNPROFOR should demilitarise the protected areas. "We demand that UNPROFOR carries out its responsibilities in accordance with (what) it stated to us that it would undertake," he said. "We warn you that we shall defend ourselves with all the means available and that no one has the right to hinder our defence." Western diplomats in Belgrade said Mr. Karadzic's letter could be read as "an apology for a counter-offensive." One said: "Since nothing has been done to stop the Muslims from wading out of Bihac, the West has probably tied its own hands as far as any action is concerned should the Serbs mount a successful counter-offensive on the safe area." A Reuters Television crew in the Bihac pocket said the Serbs were recapturing land from government forces. It filmed Serb movements on the Bihac-Bosanski Petrovac road only 18 kilometres southwest of Bihac, previously held by the Muslims. The television crew confirmed Serb reports that Serb units had managed to retake Kulen Vakuf and quoted a Serb soldier as saying: "Let's hope that no one now will prevent us from entering Bihac."

Muriel de thrones the Desert Queen at film awards

MILWAUKEE — Muriel Nazzari, a 60-year-old woman, won the Best Actress award at the Milwaukee Film Festival for her role in the film "The Desert Queen". Nazzari, who is a former model and actress, was praised for her performance in the film, which is a biographical story of a woman who lived in the desert. Nazzari said she was honored to win the award and that she was proud to be part of the film.

Parties in final push before U.S. election

WASHINGTON (R) — Democrats and Republicans made their final appeals for votes Sunday ahead of what could be dramatic congressional and state elections. Republicans are fired up by the prospect of taking control of the Senate after spending eight years in the minority, and the House of Representatives for the first time since 1954. They also seem certain to win several major governorships in Tuesday's mid-term elections. If that happened, said Senate Republican leader Bob Dole of Kansas, it would be the first time a party held a majority of both houses of Congress since 1952, when Dwight Eisenhower was president. "One hundred and fifty five million Americans have been born since republicans last controlled the United States Congress," Gen. Dole said Saturday. "If Republicans gain control of the House and Senate, we will put government on a leash, we will cut the congressional budget, we will vote on term limits, we will vote on a balanced budget amendment and we will require Congress to live under the same laws that it imposes on small-business men and women," he said. Thirty-five of 100 Senate seats, all 435 House seats and 36 state governorships are at stake Tuesday. President Bill Clinton, whose domestic agenda would be effectively killed by republican majorities in either the Senate or the House, appealed to voters not to turn away from his party and its policies. "This is not the time for America to turn away from the future, to turn to the easy promises of the past. Why would we ever want to turn back to policies that failed us?" he said in his weekly radio address. "The future of our children and our country are at stake. With all my heart and soul I believe America will continue to make the choice to keep moving forward, to be strong, to seize the future," he said. Polls this week showed Mr. Clinton's Democrats are going into this election with their lowest support level for any mid-term election since 1950. Democrats have led the national House vote by an average of nine points in the past 20 elections. In 1978, when Democrat Jimmy Carter was president, they polled eight per cent more votes than the Republicans and still lost 15 House seats. Yet polls have shown support for the two parties this year roughly equal. In several surveys, the republicans have even been ahead. It these polls are correct, the Democrats could be massacred because republicans are much more likely to come out and vote this year than Democrats. "Republican and conservative voters are energized, galvanized as I've never seen them," said political analyst Charles Cook. "They are pumped. They really dislike Clinton very strongly and they're coming out. And conversely, Democratic voters — whether it's labour, minority, liberals — are dispondent, they're disappointed," said Mr. Cook. In the Senate, the Republicans need a net gain of seven seats now held by Democrats to win a majority — and they seem placed to win at least that number despite some close races. In the House, the Republicans need a net gain of 40 seats to take control and they could come very close.

Eastern Zaire ready to blow — U.N. official

GOMA, Zaire (AFP) — The whole of eastern Zaire, where more than two million refugees from Rwanda's civil war are crowded into squalid, violence-ridden camps is ready to blow, a senior U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) official warned in this lawless border town. Joel Boutroue, the head of the UNHCR's emergency team in Northern Kivu province, told AFP that the massive flood of refugees into the region had exacerbated longstanding political tensions and anti-Rwandian sentiments. According to international relief workers, clashes which erupted in March last year between Zaireans and established Rwandans, mainly Hutus, over land ownership have been repeated in recent weeks, especially in the Masisi area. They say at least 250 people have been killed, scores of houses torched, cattle stolen and vast tracts turned into a wasteland in the clashes, while members of Rwanda's minority Tutsi tribe have been sent fleeing Masisi in terror back to their ancestral homeland. Mr. Boutroue said that because the refugee population, the largest in the world, is more than double that of the local community, tensions will continue to rise. "If this blows, and it may blow very quickly, you could have an explosion of the entire eastern Zaire. Then that will be another piece of cake," he said. Long-standing insecurities and resentments were being exacerbated as refugees flooded into towns and villages, plundered Virunga National Park's rare rain forests, disrupted the tourist trade and sent inflation spiralling. More significantly for the Zaireans, Mr. Boutroue said, is that preparations for national elections are being hampered by the inability to carry out a census due to the massive influx of Rwandans. "No census, no election," Mr. Boutroue said. In the camps themselves, banditry and thuggery have become life as Hutu militiamen take control of all aspects of camp life, including food distribution, while also engaging in gunfights, grenade attacks and mob killings. Mr. Boutroue repeated his call for the deployment of international peacekeepers, saying that only once order has been restored and genuine dialogue established, will it be possible to proceed with attempts to persuade the refugees to return to Rwanda. "An extreme situation needs a radical solution," Mr. Boutroue said to justify his call for an international deployment. "We need to prepare the ground for a return... We've got to go full speed on that or the situation will deteriorate." Relief workers claim that the former Rwandan government has set up power structures in the camps replicating the prefecture system that existed in Rwanda, with former prefects whose hands, in the words of one relief worker, "are dripping in blood," taking key positions. On Thursday, 15 humanitarian organisations — including Medecins Sans Frontieres (Doctors Without Borders), Oxfam and Care — threatened to pull out if immediate measures were not taken to end rampant criminality and anarchy in the camps. In response to the growing demands, U.N. Secretary General Boutros Ghali is expected to propose the deployment of an inter-African police force of up to 2,000 men to restore order in the camps when he attends a crucial meeting in Geneva Tuesday. Mr. Boutroue said the former government relied on the refugee population both for political and economic power and added that their power plays may have been thwarted had an international force been deployed from the start. The longer the refugee situation existed, the graver the crisis would become, he warned. The UNHCR would consider pulling out, he added, if it was "completely unable to carry out its mandate." "We don't want to withdraw," Mr. Boutroue said. "Withdrawing will not help the situation or the people who are the most vulnerable. It will just destabilise things even further."

Pakistani forces drive Islamists from airport

PESHAWAR, Pakistan (R) — Pakistani paramilitary troops freed a northwestern airport from rebellious Islamic militants Sunday in an early morning battle in which at least 10 security men were killed, officials and witnesses said. Sunday's deaths of nine paramilitary troops and a security official at Saidu Sharif Airport and of two policemen elsewhere raised the toll to at least 21 from two days of battles. At least 17 security men were wounded in the airport battle, sources in the paramilitary Frontier Corps said. The militants fired mortar bombs and rockets, said the witnesses. There was no information about casualties among the heavily armed militants, who are demanding enforcement of Islamic Sharia Law in their predominantly tribal Malakand division area of the North West Frontier Province bordering Afghanistan. Local residents said the militants, members of the fundamentalist Tehrik Nifaz Shar'iat-I-Mohammadi (TNSM), carried their dead and wounded with them when retreating from the airport near the militant-infested town of Mingora. The witnesses said the paramilitary Frontier Corps troops, who moved in the area Saturday to crush a virtual revolt by the militants, were advancing toward other TNSM-held areas, including the nearby Matta area where the militants are holding about 130 government officials, including judges, as hostages.

Japan's Ozawa rules himself out as premier

TOKYO (R) — The man who plotted Japan's greatest political upheaval since World War II firmly ruled himself out Sunday as a future prime minister or even leader of the opposition. But Ichiro Ozawa, who last year organised party realignments that led to the ousting of the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) after 38 years in power, vowed to continue his work to drag Japanese politics into the 21st century. "I am the type of person that says things directly to people. This type of person the Japanese do not like. Therefore I am not in a position to become leader of a party or head of a government," Mr. Ozawa said in a television interview. Mr. Ozawa, since mid-1993 an obligatory call for every visiting foreign official, is now at the centre of efforts to create a new opposition party to challenge Prime Minister Tomichi Murayama's four-month-old coalition government. Mr. Ozawa's rare appearance on television and even rarer appearance at a political rally last week seemed the start of a coordinated opposition campaign to bring down Mr. Murayama's coalition of his Socialists, the LDP and small Sakigake Party. In other developments, former Prime Minister Tsutomu Hata, leader of Mr. Ozawa's Shinseit Party, called for early elections and the second-largest opposition party Komeito took steps to join Mr. Ozawa's planned new party.

Debate at Lower House:

Deputies discuss pros and cons of peace treaty

The following are summaries of speeches made Saturday and Sunday by deputies at the Lower House of Parliament during debate of the peace treaty signed with Israel on Oct. 26.

Ahmad Qudah (Ajloun)

Peace was not the choice of Jordan alone but an option decided by the Arab and Islamic countries, said Mr. Qudah. Noting that Egypt concluded a peace treaty and the Palestinians had gone their own way, Mr. Qudah said Jordan had suffered a great deal from aggression and in seeking peace it had sought coordination with the other Arab parties.

He said Jordan had no alternative to defending its rights but to follow the path of peace and ensure its sovereignty over its territory and water resources.

The deputy said that it was true that the treaty was something that "shook our concepts and our values but it is the reality that we have to deal with and we have to strive towards a brighter future."

Suleiman Al Saad (Jerash) (Islamist)

Voicing opposition to the treaty, Mr. Saad asserted that the treaty had dangerous implications and would have serious consequences on Jordan.

The treaty forces Jordan to trust the Jews but our Koran teaches us that the Jews are never to be trusted, said Mr. Saad. He charged that the treaty "aims to provide" protection to Israel and demands normal relations with the enemy which is resented by the people and is demanding that the Jordanians end the state of belligerency with the Jewish state, something which is detrimental to the nation.

He stressed that the Palestinian question, which is the centre of the Arab-Israeli conflict, was not resolved by the treaty, and underlined that the Palestinian problem is the cause of all Arabs and Muslims, and the Palestinians are only spearheading Arab and Muslim efforts to liberate their occupied lands.

Tajwan Faisal (Amman)

What is the point of discussing the treaty when the government has already taken the decision and concluded the treaty, Ms. Faisal said. The government has abused its authority to serve its own interest, charged the deputy, who accused the official information media of claiming that the treaty enjoys the support of 100 per cent of the people. Why then is security tightened everywhere if this is so? she asked.

"While the treaty says that we have regained full sovereignty over all our lands, we can see that a Jewish settlement is in place on our territory with Jewish settlers free to come and go," she said.

Abdul Aziz Jaber (Amman) (Islamist)

Mr. Jaber said Jordan had completely abandoned Arab ranks in the Middle East conflict by signing the treaty with Israel, securing only Israeli and American guarantees to keep it as an independent political entity in the region.

"This will cause a new crack in the Arab-Islamic wall and would enable the Zionist entity to go through it to penetrate the region easily, thus making Jordan a gate for the great Zionist project in the region," Mr. Jaber said.

Abdul Rahim Ukour (Irbid) (Islamist)

Mr. Ukour, who spoke also on behalf of the IAF colleague Talal Oberdat, said the treaty failed to regain Jordan's full rights to the Jordan and Yarmouk rivers water and said he hoped that the government did not believe that this treaty has terminated "the project of the substitute homeland."

ture and nature as a racist country, specifying the problem as the existence of three million Palestinians on its land. "The Israeli leaders realise that their entry will never be stable unless it gets rid of this demographic threat," he added.

He said people will be disappointed by the full normalisation of relations with Israel, which is still occupying "our lands and shedding the blood of our sons."

He continued that it was not a shame for nations and peoples to be defeated, adding that this happened repeatedly in history. "It happened with Japan and Germany and other nations, but the shame here is not to call things by their names."

He said the coming generations will not be satisfied with the treaty and will continue their march towards regaining Jordan's full rights to water, land, holy places and resources.

Mohammad Owaidah (Balqa) (Islamist)

Mr. Owaidah objected to ending the state of enmity with Israel, arguing that the reasons for enmity still exist. Saying the government had underlined that through delineating the borders with Israel it had secured Jordan's borders, he asked which side needs recognition of its borders, Jordan or Israel.

He charged that article eight of the treaty deals with the problem of refugees and displaced persons as a humanitarian problem rather than a political problem, and instead of tackling it, it was delayed to future stages.

He stressed that the Palestinian question, which is the centre of the Arab-Israeli conflict, was not resolved by the treaty, and underlined that the Palestinian problem is the cause of all Arabs and Muslims, and the Palestinians are only spearheading Arab and Muslim efforts to liberate their occupied lands.

Jamil Al Hushoush (Karak)

Mr. Hushoush of the Progress and Justice Party voiced support for the treaty, saying it serves the national interests of Jordan.

The treaty, Mr. Hushoush said, gives back to Jordan its rights to its land and water and cancels the "greater Israel project" which was adopted by the Zionist movement since its establishment.

"We support the treaty and bless His Majesty King Hussein's steps over these major national achievements and we highly value the efforts of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan in this regard," he said.

Khalil Haddadin (Amman)

Mr. Haddadin said, Arab policies had failed over a period of half a century in dealing with the Arab-Zionist conflict and that as the Arab countries attended the Madrid conference in 1991 they lacked any degree of coordination.

He said the Jordanian people were surprised by the Palestine Liberation Organisation signing of the Oslo agreement with the Israelis and the declaration of principles which produced the Gaza-Jericho first scheme.

"This was the sole representative of the Palestinian people have relinquished its demand to liberate Palestine from the (Mediterranean) Sea to (Jordan) River," he said.

He argued that the treaty contradicts article one of the Jordanian Constitution when it was made binding in case of its contradiction with any Arab agreements or commitments as if the Jordanian people are no more part of the Arab Nation.

in the Middle East as well as the disarray in Arab ranks have no doubt speeded up the process of peace, leading to the signing of the treaty with Israel," he said. "Jordan would no doubt work hard to help the other parties attain peace and security and ensure the return of all the occupied Arab lands so that a comprehensive peace can be established in this region."

Mustafa Shneikat (Balqa)

Voicing opposition to the peace treaty, Mr. Shneikat said that coming in the wake of three years of negotiations between the Arabs and the Israelis the treaty does not secure the implementation of U.N. Security Council resolutions 242 and 338. "This treaty, which does not meet the requirements of a just and durable peace, has come about as a result of the success of the American-Israeli alliance in ensuring divisions in Arab ranks," the deputy said.

"It is a dangerous step that would harm Jordan's national sovereignty and the country's future," Mr. Shneikat said. "We are only demanding the implementation of U.N. resolutions something which has not happened so far. Therefore reaching a peace treaty at this juncture means surrender to Israel."

"We reject the peace treaty with Israel," he added "because we consider it as a show of disregard to the U.N. resolutions and the legitimate rights of the Arab people."

Ali Shatti (Balqa)

Voicing his support for the peace treaty, Mr. Shatti said no one should demand from Jordan to remain waiting alone for the outcome of the Israeli negotiations on other tracks.

The peace treaty entails all that Jordan has been seeking and for which Jordanians have offered sacrifices, he said. Jordan, he added, had always supported a comprehensive peace on all tracks but the Kingdom cannot just wait indefinitely endangering its national interests, he said.

Saleh Shawata (Irbid)

Mr. Shawata said that as a Jordanian of Palestinian origin he could not recognise Israel's occupation of Palestine.

"My village where I was born and where my relatives live is under occupation and this applies to all the displaced Palestinians who have been suffering from displacement and living in camps," Mr. Shawata said.

"This is not a treaty that ends the state of war between two nations but it rather came as a result of international and Arab circumstances and I hope that the Jordanian leadership would continue to seek the rights of the Palestinian people," he noted.

Mr. Shawata said "I appeal to His Majesty King Hussein to help the Palestinian refugees who continue to suffer from occupation and displacement."

Abdullah Akaleh (Islamist-Tafleh)

Criticising the peace treaty, Mr. Akaleh said that Israel had sought to exclude Jerusalem from it and refer it to the final stage of negotiations with the Palestinians. But the Jews are insisting that Jerusalem is their eternal and undivided capital, he noted.

"Since the early days of this century the Jews have sought to take the conflict out of its pan-Arab and Islamic context dealing with each Arab state separately."

No one would expect Jordan to liberate the whole of Palestine on its own but it should also be said that our struggle with the Jews had never been over a 300 kilometres of land or 50 to 235 million cubic metres of water, said Mr. Akaleh. He declared his opposition to the treaty.

Abdul Majid Azzam (Ajloun)

Voicing support for the treaty, Mr. Azzam said that the Kingdom had the right like all the other Arab states to turn its attention to its own interests and the interests of its people.

Concluding the treaty does not mean that Jordan will turn its back on the Arab and Islamic nations," he said. "Jordan will remain committed to pan-Arab causes."

"Jordan has been steadfast and had never interfered in

other Arab countries affairs and has paid dearly following the Gulf crisis for adopting pan-Arab policies," Mr. Azzam said.

Addressing the opposition, he said that he would support the opposition if it came up with alternative proposals for a formula that would end poverty and the no-war no-peace situation and the lack of security and stability in the region.

Khaled Abdul Nabi Al Ajarmeh (Amman)

"Our negotiators have succeeded in regaining every inch of Jordan's lost territory and the peace treaty came to crown their efforts," Mr. Ajarmeh said.

"Following the example of the Palestinians we have reached agreement with Israel to ensure stability for the Jordanian people," he said. He noted that Jordan is a country with meagre resources and limited potentials depending on assistance from Arab states which have turned their backs on the Kingdom for the past four years.

"Furthermore, the return to Jordan of more than 350,000 people from Kuwait in the wake of the Gulf war has made matters worse for Jordan and turned Jordanians bitter about such treatment from the other countries," Mr. Ajarmeh said.

Farah Rabadi (Ajloun)

"The treaty we are discussing today is not a novelty for us because it has been negotiated over the past three years," Mr. Rabadi said.

"The majority of the Jordanian people rally behind their leadership and accept peace and support the King's endeavours in his efforts," he said.

Criticising those who opposed peace negotiations from the start, Mr. Rabadi said that "had we delayed the treaty further we could have needed a miracle to save us from the complexities."

Jordan has realised that the time has come to direct its attention towards its own interests after having devoted much of its past efforts towards serving others, he added.

Bassam Haddadin (Zarqa)

Voicing one's opinion on the Jordanian-Israeli peace treaty is a great responsibility, Mr. Haddadin opened. Issues concerning the homeland do not tolerate overbidding or compromises since "all of us, government and opposition, are united for the good of the homeland," he said.

"To be able to do that we must hear each other well and find the best means to ensure interaction of all opinions, and participation in the national decision-making process."

Mr. Haddadin accused the government of giving a deaf ear to opposition, hiding information from it and concealing its intentions and in general dealing with the opposition in a hostile manner.

"Whenever progress was made in the negotiation process, the government had tightened its grip on the opposition and limited participation in the decision-making process to the smallest circles and sometimes to few individuals," he said.

Mr. Haddadin said the government did not only absent the opposition from taking part in decision-making, but also absented its own supporters, whether at the Lower House or in political parties.

"I do not exaggerate if I say that ministers were also the last to know," Mr. Haddadin charged. That government behaviour leads to suspicion, he said.

He held a comparison with the other party to the treaty, Israel, noting that he had not heard about any detention or banning of marches or sit-ins. There were continuous dialogues on the other side (Israel) between the government and the opposition, he said adding that the government could have involved the opposition in the negotiations. "Had it done so we would have been able to ensure better terms."

to resign, because it did not initiate dialogue with the constitutional and political institutions in the country before signing it. Mr. Haddadin called for a public referendum on the treaty.

Deifallah Momani (Islamist, Ajloun)

"Any peace treaty between the Jews and any Arab state is considered a difficult option, but for Jordan it is the hardest because Jordan has never worked for itself in isolation of other Arab and Islamic countries," Mr. Momani said.

He said the Jordanian-Israeli peace treaty has encouraged some Arab leaders to visit Israel. He warned that Jews will not adopt Arab great values even if they live amongst us for decades. He said that Jews were masters of terrorism and extremism, although they are accusing others of being terrorists and extremists.

Jamal Khreisheh (Central bedouins)

"It is the duty of our Parliament to care for Jordan's interests, affording them priority over all others," Mr. Khreisheh said.

"The people of Jordan have elected us to serve them honestly and protect their interests and, therefore, we have a duty to support the peace treaty which ensures peace and the rights of the Jordanian people."

Noting that the Palestinians "went ahead before us and negotiated their rights," he said Jordan could not wait and see its rights lost and leave matters for others to plan its future.

"After studying this treaty we can only declare our support for it since it regains our rights," he concluded.

Ahmad Al Kofahi (Irbid)

Accusing the government of disengaging Jordan from the Arab and Islamic nation through this treaty, Mr. Kofahi said that one should take lessons from the past and remember that the Jews never respected agreements with any party and, therefore, the treaty would not help Jordan regain anything.

"This treaty is a sell out of Palestine, Jerusalem and the Arab and Islamic nations' rights," said Kofahi expressing his rejection of the treaty.

This treaty is bound to help the Jewish state achieve the so-called greater Israel at the expense of the Arab Nation," he charged.

Criticising the Jordanian negotiators Mr. Kofahi said that they excelled in their theatrical performance and in misleading the media, resorting to deception. Levelling criticism on the government, the deputy said that the government had been accusing the opposition of being against the regime but deep down it realises that this was not the case. "The opposition has a constitutional right to express its views regarding all issues and has the right to declare its views openly to protect public interest," he added.

Hammam Said (Amman)

Mr. Said said that the Jordanian-Israeli peace treaty, similar to the Oslo accord, Washington meetings and the Cairo agreement, was surprising to the people.

"It has been imposed by force, by martial law, by the confiscation of freedoms and the stifling of people's voices."

"Had it been a people's choice, people would have their say on it," he said.

He said such agreements have become the norm since the 1970s.

"They have been written in the books, with all the industrial, agricultural and tourist projects they envisage."

Dr. Said said the first chapter of the Zionist project had ended by the occupation of Palestine by force, and the second chapter will be completed by peace.

He stressed that Jordan and Palestine form one geographic and demographic entity and that most of the tribes in Jordan have their roots in Palestine and most of the tribes in Palestine have their roots in Jordan.

committed to the cause of the refugees and displaced persons who constitute more than half of the Jordanian people, he said.

The Palestinian concern is Jordan's concern, and the dislocation of Palestinians from this body is tantamount to the removal of a man's heart or lung, he said.

He warned of Jewish immigration to Palestine, saying that Jews have plans to send four to five million Jewish immigrants to Palestine by the year 2000.

Dr. Said wondered whether the Jordanian negotiators had addressed this problem properly.

He voiced his rejection of the treaty, not because he did not understand history, he said, but because the treaty included many problems which were left to consultation with the Jews.

Mohammad Adoub Al Zaben (Central bedouins)

Dr. Zaben said he was not supporting the treaty because Jordan was acquiring something through the treaty that was not its own, but because it restores its usurped rights.

"Some colleagues say that this treaty has contradicted the Jordanian Constitution which bans any relinquishing of Jordanian land in their reference to severing ties (with the West Bank), but how can this be called relinquishing while there is a self-rule authority in the occupied territories with the blessing of the international community?" asked Dr. Zaben.

"How strange that we can forget the past! Before about 20 years, in 1974, when King Hussein addressed Al Rabat (Arab) summit, he said: 'And if the summit wants to exclude the legitimate representation with only the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and consequently end Jordan's direct role in political work and in demanding and negotiating despite its stand, rights, existence and sacrifices and all that it had offered for this (Palestinian) cause, Jordan will any way preserve its pan-Arab position on this cause and will work for its victory'."

Dr. Zaben said that after this decision at the summit the PLO became the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. He said that time there were no demonstrations denouncing the decision and there were no politicians or intellectuals condemning it. But, he continued, "when Jordan, under its Hashemite leadership, and with its loyal people, have managed to regain its rights, it was surprised by demonstrations, articles, speeches, lectures and seminars."

"Based on that, I am with the treaty out of my conviction that the Arab-Israeli conflict has now taken its current national form. The treaty, in the national Jordanian context restores the Kingdom's legitimate water and land rights, and delineates its western borders," he concluded.

Mahmoud Huweimil (the Jordan Valley)

Mr. Huweimil said that he supported the treaty and called on the Jordanian people to unify their ranks in preparation for the future stages.

He said that the treaty had several good aspects about it, including demarcating the Kingdom's western border and disallowing involuntary immigration.

"Every one knows how much we have suffered because of the emigration to Jordan and how much the Jordanian people have shouldered and how much the Jordanian treasury has paid to offer services to immigrants and displaced people."

The treaty, he added, also "commits" European states and the U.S. to developing the region, restores Jordan's water rights, calls for fighting drugs and urges economic development. Furthermore, the treaty opens the door for Jordanians to benefit in technological fields, he noted.

"The most positive aspect in the treaty is that His Majesty King Hussein has committed himself to all that was mentioned in it and we committed ourselves to what he committed himself," said Mr. Huweimil.

Mohammad Daoudieh (Tafleh governorate) (for Awlad Khleifat (Maan) and Abdul Razaq Tbeishat Irbid)

Mr. Daoudieh said his fears were reduced by the treaty. Despite the shortcomings in it, he said, the treaty

meeting. "When discussing peace, we are not considering it as Constantinople conquest, nor as a sell out or treason, since any negotiations mean mutual concessions and half-way meeting."

Mr. Daoudieh reviewed the history of the Hashemites and their struggle and sacrifices in defence for Arab causes. He said His Majesty King Hussein has refused an offer to sign unilateral peace with Israel after the 1967 Arab-Israeli war, although the late Egyptian President Jamal Abdul Nasser advised him that time to do so.

Mr. Daoudieh said the Madrid peace conference implied collective Arab agreement to unilateral solutions: A Syrian track, a Palestinian track, a Lebanese track and a Jordanian track. The Oslo accord was the culmination of a pan-Arab resolution adopted by the Arab summit in 1974. That resolution gave the Palestinians the full right to address their national interest through their independent decision and national sovereignty.

The Oslo accord was tantamount to a declaration of burying inter-Arab coordination which was a term with no meaning.

Therefore, it was incumbent on Jordan to fend off marginalisation and conspiracy with all its political, economic and demographic dimensions.

The signing of the Jordanian-Israeli agreement was the result of all these previous developments, Mr. Daoudieh said. Those who reject the treaty are doing so because they see that the splitting of Arab-Israeli conflict into tracks and bilateral agreements will minimise the gains they are expected to reap had they acted as one team negotiating in one track: This is true, he said.

Nazih Ammarin (Karak)

Mr. Ammarin said Jordan was suffering from the no-war, no-peace situation, not because of its limited resources, the economic embargo, conspiracies targeting its security, insufficiency of water, stifling indebtedness and rising unemployment.

"I say to those who say 'alright, we realise how bad the status quo is, so let us leave matters for the coming generations', that I respect this view, but out of my faith in the interests of the country and the need to place these interests above all other personal considerations, I oppose this view for the following reasons:

"Solving the problem can never be through avoiding it and through speeches, statements and slogans."

"Delaying the problem simply means the continuation of the no-war, no-peace situation."

"I remind you of the series of lost opportunities which characterised the emotional way the Arabs dealt with the Palestinian problem. We always regretted what we refused earlier."

"All of us remember the 1947 partition plan which was approved by the wise Jordanian leadership then, and which we rejected in accordance with the irresponsible emotional reaction ... if we today refuse what we are offered, would we have any more to decay and to regret?"

"Despite all that was said about the treaty, we think that through this treaty we gained a lot of what we were demanding."

Mr. Ammarin continued by saying that the treaty did not end the Arab-Israeli conflict, but has moved the Arabs to a more advanced and complicated form of conflict. "It has moved us from the unified (military) confrontation to a multi-front battle of economy, science, knowledge and loyalty. It is the multi-dimensional battle of peace ... it is the battle of challenge in tourism, economy, industry and agriculture, and indeed it is a heated battle."

He said Jordan has the capabilities and potentials to fight "the battle of peace," and asked his fellow deputies: "Why do we fear the future? Should we, as opposition, only reject the treaty, and normalisation by organising marches and issuing some statements? I call this form of opposition a negative one that is nationally unacceptable, especially that the treaty has now become a reality."

and the opposition is now required to play a positive role in waging the battle of peace."

still had lots of positive elements.

"No one can claim that it is a great victory but it was the best that could be achieved in these difficult times. I cannot deny that I was dreaming the better, or at least, having Israeli withdrawal from all the territories occupied in 1967 and afterward, including the land of Palestine and its capital Jerusalem which is in the heart of each of us. How not when we were raised on these things?"

"My dear colleagues, the treaty was the best that it could get at these difficult circumstances ..."

"I like to point out to the issues that were discussed by the members of the House Foreign Relations Committee which debated the treaty."

Regarding the issue of Jordan's quitting all the previous agreements contravening this treaty, including the Arab joint defence agreement, I say that the way, understood it, Jordan can't help of any Arab forces any time whether that was its self defence or for attack at this treaty will no more be valid."

For those saying the Jordan got less than its share of water specified by the Johnston plan, I ask them how was the share of Pales calculated? Or isn't it clear that Syria is now getting from the Yarmouk river water 150 million cubic metres more than its share specified by the Johnston plan?"

I appeal to the government to regain Al Baqour area owned by Jews and convert it to a plantation and call on the government to make do without the water getting in the north term porarily ... and for that Israel should stop using Jordanian wells in the Wadi Araba area."

Nazih Ammarin (Karak)

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Dollar flow jumps by the millions in election battle Rosy economic data fails to boost Clinton

WASHINGTON (AFP) — The economy is growing, inflation is under control and unemployment is down. So why is President Bill Clinton in the defensive ahead of Tuesday's mid-term legislative elections?

Paradoxically, voters remain pessimistic about the economy, according to recent polls. A Newsweek survey showed 59 per cent of Americans believed the economy is still in recession, even though economic growth is nearly four per cent.

In fact, the recession ended in the spring of 1991, and the U.S. economy has grown a total of 10.7 per cent over the last 14 quarters. Inflation meanwhile has remained around three per cent in 1994.

In a late electoral swing, Mr. Clinton has heralded the economic data, including Friday's report that unemployment had declined to 5.8 per cent in October from 7.4 per cent two years ago. He noted that five million jobs have been created in the last 22 months, but many voters remain unconvinced.

Only 25 per cent of persons surveyed in a Time-CNN poll said they believed their situation had improved in the last year.

Mr. Clinton and the Democratic Party could pay a heavy political price for his discontent in elections for 35 of 100 senators and all 435 representatives that could

swing the balance in at least one chamber of Congress to the Republicans.

Economists say the positive economic figures belie a troubling reality in the country: Income and social benefits have declined in the first two years of the Clinton presidency for the middle class he courted in his campaign.

Living standards continue to decline and people often work longer hours for lower pay with less job security, analysts say.

"There is a squeeze on American workers today," said Allen Sinai, chief economist for Lehman Brothers Global Economics.

"Productivity gains and low inflation are coming on the backs of American workers. We've got what looks like the healthiest economy in decades, but that doesn't sound good if you are working two or three jobs without any benefits, and your wife is working, and you're just keeping even with where you used to be," he explained.

Mr. Sinai estimates that half of the jobs created since the end of the recession are temporary ones with low pay and little or no benefits.

Government figures show that while business productivity has risen, the average family income after inflation declined one per cent in 1993 and a total of seven per cent from a 1989 peak.

"It's clear that the majority of people don't have reason

to feel good about the economy," said Lawrence Katz, a Harvard University economist.

"Most of the growth that we are seeing is benefiting people with relatively high levels of education and who are already relatively affluent, and that is worsening our income gap," he added.

White House aides are seeking to put a positive spin on the figures, saying Mr. Clinton has made a good start in reversing a long trend of decline.

"Maybe the message hasn't been heard, or maybe this wasn't a typical recession and we haven't had a typical recovery," said Laura Tyson, chief of Mr. Clinton's Council of Economic Advisers.

"But the president talked in 1992 about how Americans were working more for less and you cannot change a trend like that — which has been going on for 15 years — in a period of 20 months," she added. "We have put the recovery on a strong foundation, and now we have begun a strategy to deal with the economy's long-term problems."

Meanwhile, spending this year for seats in the U.S. House of Representatives and the Senate has jumped to \$449 million as of Oct. 19, up \$71 million (19 per cent) over the same period in 1992, according to the Federal Election Commission.

For 10 years, Senate Re-

publican Jesse Helms and his Democratic challenger held the record for campaign spending, doling out \$25.9 million in their 1984 North Carolina Senate battle.

But that record went down in flames by mid-October as the Senate battle in California between Democratic incumbent Dianne Feinstein and Republican challenger Michael Huffington rang up a \$35.9 million price tag — a spending rate of over \$100,000 a day since the year began.

Mr. Huffington alone has spent \$25.2 million, with \$24.8 million of that sum coming from a personal fortune amassed in Texas oil dealings. That translates into slightly more than a dollar per voter in California.

In Virginia, Republican Oliver North is waging an acrimonious battle to strip the Democratic opponent of his seat, investing over \$20 million in the struggle — or \$4 per voter.

Two years ago, election campaigns shelled out \$504 million to elect 435 members to the House of Representatives and one third of the senate. 1992's figure outstripped 1990 totals. This year's mid-term elections promise to be even more costly.

The clamour for campaign reform has risen over the years. Bill Clinton ran in 1992 on a pledge to support a vast reduction in campaign spending and encourage greater competition.

But Congress proved unable to come to terms with the issue this year, allowing reform measures to fall by the wayside.

And in the United States, major corporations do not hesitate to help politicians who may prove useful, regardless of their political persuasion.

In 1992, with George Bush in the White House, money poured into the Republican pot. This year the stream has shifted to Democrats, who control the executive and the legislature.

In 1992, Archer-Daniels-Midland (ADM), a leading agricultural and food producer, donated over \$1.1 million to the Republicans and only \$237,000 to the Democrats.

This year, the ratio flipped: As of June 30, ADM had given out \$261,000 to the Democrats and \$47,500 to the Republicans.

Donors hope for an open ear from those they have lavished funds on. The more the money flows. Conversely, when the threat of reform recedes so does the flood of money.

The money flow also is issue sensitive. Contributions to candidates supportive of Israel have declined with the spread of peace in the Middle East.

U.S.-Israeli political action committees, organised to raise money to influence Congress, cut their spending to \$1.2 million by June.

Economic growth boosts Islamic banks' market share

DUBAI (R) — Islamic banks believe solid economic growth in Muslim countries is responsible for the increasing market share held by Islamic banks in these states.

"The growth of Islamic banking is not a reflection of growing awareness of Islam, nor of Islamic fundamentalism, but the result of economic growth in the Islamic World fuelled primarily by oil wealth," said Adnan Al Bahar, chairman of the International Investor, a Kuwait-based Islamic bank.

Addressing an Islamic banking conference Sunday, Sheikh Bahar said Islamic banks now managed between \$60 and \$80 billion, an amount which he said was growing at about 15 per cent per year.

His estimate is higher than that of the authoritative Association of Islamic Banks which put it \$30-\$40 billion.

"It is my belief that Islamic banking will be responsible for managing up to 50 per cent of savings in the Islamic World in the coming five to 10 years," he said.

A number of factors pointed to sustained growth of the industry. These included the trend of a transfer of wealth from the state of the private sector in oil producing countries, the growing size of middle-income groups in Muslim countries and increasing demand for Islamic

banking products from institutions, such as pension fund managers.

Recognition of the importance of Islamic banking by the monetary authorities and increasing cooperation with western banks further supported the industry, Sheikh Bahar said.

Islamic banks offer instruments and financing procedures which do not conflict with Islamic shari'a (law), which forbids the charging or earning of interest.

Sheikh Bahar said Islamic banks' global presence was set to grow. "Islamic financial institutions are gaining market share and are not exposed to competition from global players in their home base because of their highly specialised market niche."

This was "in addition to their growing capability to deliver value to their international corporate clients by helping them tap a market that their existing bankers cannot help with."

Competition between a growing number of Islamic banks had intensified and was resulting in a wider range of products and a narrowing of margins, Sheikh Bahar said.

Controversy over whether Islamic banks should invest in equity of companies which dealt in interest meant that such investments were likely

to remain restricted. But the use of profit and loss sharing agreements was likely to see substantial growth, he said, particularly in project finance.

Currency hedging techniques would also develop, allowing for the trading of commodities denominated in different currencies, he said.

The conference was told by another speaker that Islamic and Western banks should cooperate with each other to achieve greater efficiency and a more global and dynamic industry.

Duncan Smith, head of Islamic investment banking at United Bank of Kuwait, said there was scepticism over the ability of the two types of banks to cooperate as principles of religion and trust differed.

"The religious aspects of Islamic banking should be looked after by the shari'a experts while the commercial implementation should be handled by the bankers," he said.

"Where it makes sense from a commercial point-of-view, Islamic banks may best fulfil their fiduciary responsibilities as fund managers and bankers by cooperating with non-Islamic banks," he concluded.

Low oil prices depress Omani economy

MUSCAT (AFP) — Low oil prices depressed Oman's economy by more than four per cent in the first half of 1994 despite positive growth rates in other sectors, official figures showed Sunday.

The Gross Domestic Product (GDP) declined by 4.1 per cent to 2.19 billion Omani riyals (\$5.69 billion) in the first half of this year from 28 billion riyals (\$5.92 billion) in the first half of 1993, according to the figures by the state-run Omani Development Council.

The oil sector plunged by 16 per cent to 801.1 million riyals (\$2.08 billion) from 965.5 million riyals (\$2.3 billion) in the same period.

While mining, construction and government services dropped by 13.6, 1.5 and 5.1 per cent respectively, the water and electricity sector grew by 5.4 per cent and trade by 7 per cent, the figures showed.

New UAE import duty to double revenue, study says

ABU DHABI (R) — The United Arab Emirates (UAE) new uniform four per cent import tariff will double customs revenues and make local goods more competitive, the Gulf state's Emirates Industrial Bank (EIB) said in a study.

The UAE began enforcing a uniform four per cent tariff on most imports in August. Until then emirates of the seven-member UAE had set varying tariffs, some as low as one per cent.

"Customs revenues are expected to rise substantially to reach about 1.7 billion dirhams (\$460 million) in 1995 compared to 900 million dirhams this year," said the study issued on Saturday by EIB, set up by the UAE to promote local industry.

The extra revenue would allow the customs authorities to improve their services, something difficult in the past because of the low level of customs charges, the EIB said.

"The rise in duties will help boost the competitiveness of national products in local markets as the prices of some imported goods subject to duty are likely to rise, such as chemicals, plastic and mineral products," it said.

The EIB criticised importers who it said had raised the domestic prices of some foodstuffs and building materials, even though they were not subject to the new unified tariff.

The UAE's markets had kept their image of being cheap and dynamic despite the tariff, it said, but warned: "Importers who keep on trying to make a quick and unfair profit at the expense of the consumer may damage the commercial sector as a whole."

The imposition by the UAE of a uniform import tariff is an essential first step towards unifying tariff rates with other members of the Gulf Cooperation Council, which can vary widely.

U.S. intelligence budget reportedly published by mistake

NEW YORK (AFP) — A congressional subcommittee has inadvertently made public a breakdown of the highly classified budget for U.S. intelligence services, estimated at \$28 billion, the New York Times reported Saturday.

The newspaper said the figures included \$3.1 billion sought by the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) for the current year and \$13.2 billion sought by the Pentagon's intelligence services.

Another \$10.4 billion was reportedly requested by the army, navy, air force and marines, and their special operations units, for intelligence aimed at battlefield situations.

The figures also include unspecified amounts for the intelligence agencies of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Drug Enforcement Administration and the departments of energy, treasury and state, the Times said.

The daily said the break-

down of the classified intelligence budgets was mistakenly published in documents released by the House of Representatives' subcommittee on defence appropriations.

Some members of Congress have been pressing for public disclosure of the country's intelligence budget since the end of the Cold War five years ago. But in July, the House narrowly rejected a bill to declassify the figures.

The Times said the figures disclosed by error highlighted the magnitude of U.S. spending on intelligence, which experts said totalled approximately \$28 billion for the current fiscal year.

For example, the paper said, the CIA had sought a billion dollars more than the State Department's budget. The sum requested by the Pentagon's intelligence services was only slightly less than the budget for the Justice Department.

Israeli cabinet approves \$1.8b budget supplement

TEL AVIV (AFP) — The Israeli cabinet voted Sunday a \$1.8 billion budget supplement to cover in part the army's redeployment on the West Bank in line with the PLO peace accord, officials said.

Finance Minister Avraham Shohat requested the extra funds to the \$42.5 billion budget for 1994 to aid the defence industry, to pay for high public sector wage settlements and for the redeployment.

Israel and the Palestinians were expected to resume negotiations in Cairo later in the week on the redeployment outside built-up areas on the West Bank to allow elections to take place to an autonomous council.

The Palestinians want a quick pullback while Israel is insisting that a detailed accord be reached on the mechanics of the redeployment.

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Amman and Rio de Janeiro

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 10, 1993

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Both your judgement and your hunches are operating accurately and you would be wise to concentrate upon details of finances and property that don't require taking any risks, chances or change.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Get out in the world of business or whatever practical activities you have in mind and you can get your ambitions before the world successfully.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) You have many new ideas just what you can do to extend your prosperity to new horizons so be openminded to whatever arises for it can be of benefit to you.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Seek out those business persons with whom you have some dealings to put through with and get into the practical aspects of them and make definite arrangements.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Get in touch with those very down to earth associates who can further your aims and let them know what they can do to aid your progress.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) You have an unusually productive day wherever your activities of a work nature are concerned so make sure that you do not lose a moment in constructive planning.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) A great day to think in terms of whatever recreations you want to engage in and to make arrangements now so you have them for sometime to come.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) You have been considering some practical changes at your residence and this is certainly the day to start to put them into actual motion.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Think about the various persons with whom you have usual contact who can aid you to make your life more effective and enriched and get their support.

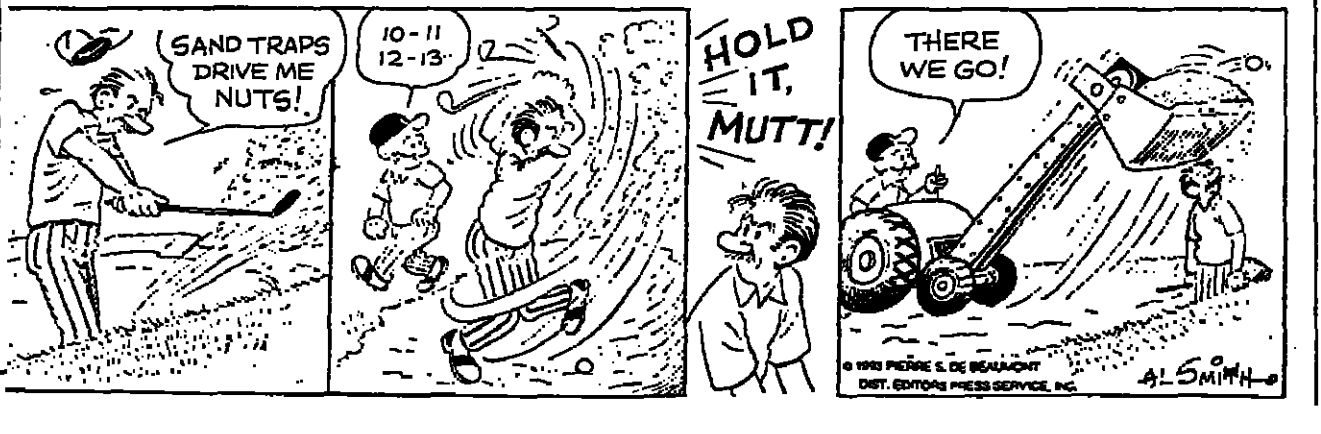
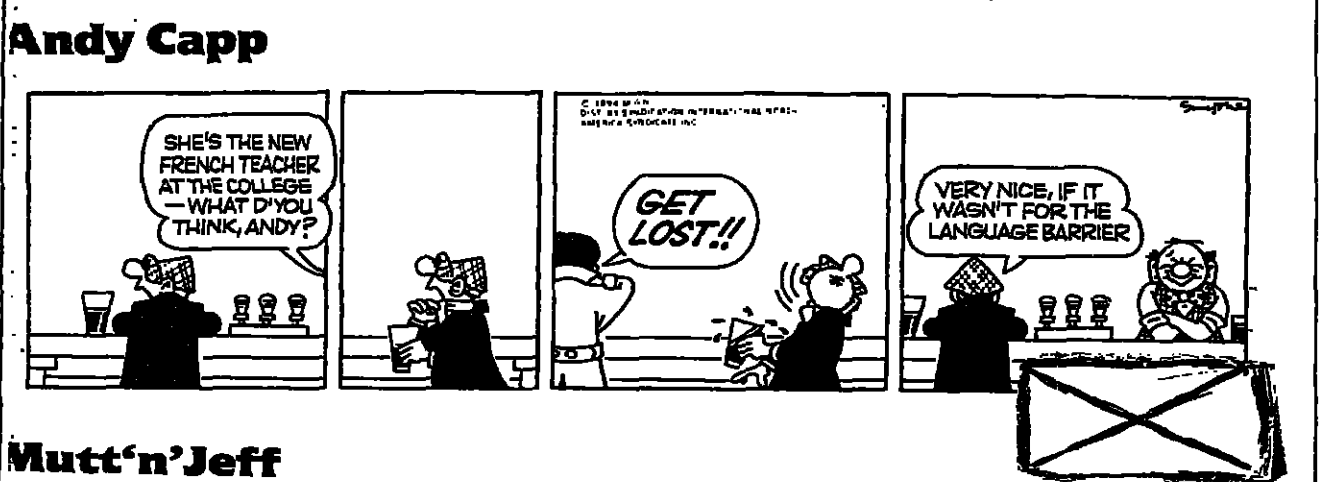
SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Money matters and other practical interests should occupy the top of your list today for you have a good chance to increase your abundance.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) You have a feeling of self-confidence and that you can extend your interests to include whatever you want to a personal nature.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) You now would be wise to forget any daydreaming and get into the nitty gritty into whatever practical plans and arrangements vital to your progress.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Think in terms of the long time and purposeful friends you have and let them know how they can aid you to obtain your personal goals and follow suggestions.

Birthstone of November: Topaz-Tiger's Eye



THE BETTER HALF

By Glasbergen

Cologne

"If you really want to smell good to a woman, rub Mel Gibson behind your ears."

JUMBLE

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

KONET

BYLUR

NECTED

SADLIM

Answer here: " " OF " "

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: EMERY BRAND CLERGY FINALE

Answer: Something he got when he joined the knitting class — THE NEEDLE

THE Daily Crossword

by Don Johnson

ACROSS

- Unlustrous
- Prison guard
- Cover the upper surface
- African plant
- Raccoon's cousin
- Flash-eating bird
- Four down hard
- Accomplished
- Pillar
- Ceremonial
- Chutney
- Pub measure
- Arm of the Indian Ocean
- Meandering
- prognosis
- Mr. Cresset
- Gravel
- In better shape
- Gambling only
- Utters
- Pending awards
- corner
- Get of rooms
- California city
- Posed
- Provinces
- Pub measure
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Foreman becomes oldest heavyweight champion

LAS VEGAS (AP) — With a blasting two-punch combination, George Foreman erased the memory that has haunted him for 20 years.

"I exorcised the ghost of (Muhammad Ali) once and forever," the 45-year-old Foreman said after knocking out Michael Moorer to win the IBF and WBA heavyweight championships Saturday night.

For nine rounds, Foreman looked like a battered old fighter whose hopes of regaining at least part of the championship he lost when he was knocked out by Ali on Oct. 30, 1974, could not be realized.

Foreman's face was lopsided from Moorer's right jabs and right hooks. His left eye was closing. He was huffing and puffing.

Then, with shocking suddenness in the 10th round, Foreman knocked Moorer out.

"He should never have stood in front of me," the 250-pound (113-kilogramme) Foreman said.

But for a brief moment in the 10th, that's just what the 26-year-old Moorer did. Slam, came Foreman's left hook.

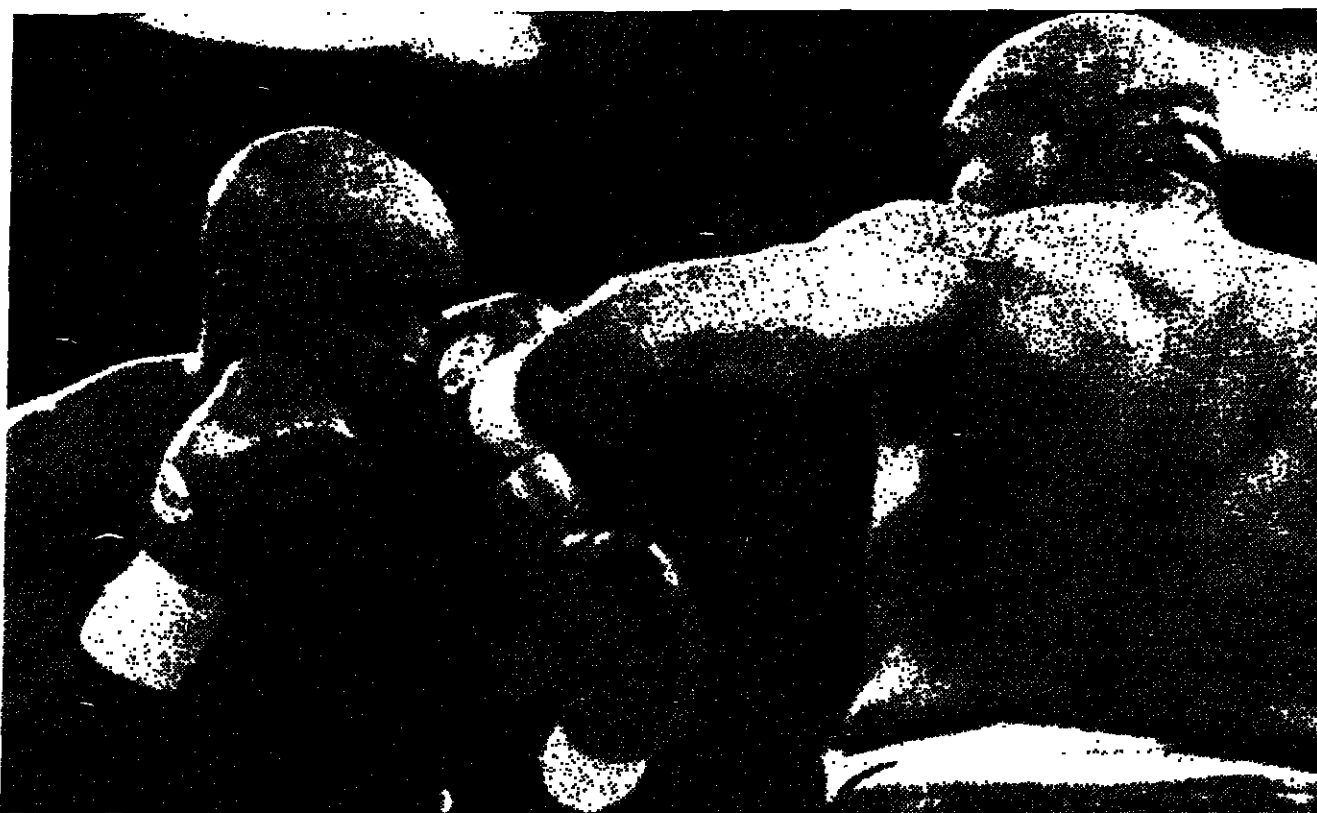
Crash, came his right hand. And Moorer landed flat on his back with his arms outstretched. He barely moved a muscle as referee Joe Cortez counted Foreman into boxing history.

When Cortez completed the 10-count, Foreman, the boxer-turned-preacher-turned-actor-turned-champion, knelt in prayer in a neutral corner.

"It's like the song: 'When you wish upon a star and your dreams come true,'" Foreman said. "Well, look at me tonight."

"He didn't see the punch coming," said Moorer's trainer, Teddy Atlas. "That was the best punch George threw all night. That was what we were afraid of."

"I got lackadaisical," said Moorer, who became an ex-champion one week before his birthday. "I just got



George Foreman (right) throws a hard left into the face of Michael Moorer in the third round of their scheduled 12 round heavyweight title bout in Las Vegas, Nevada.

Foreman took the title from Moorer with a tenth round knockout (AFP photo)

caught. That's part of boxing. I'm going to have to live with it."

Foreman became the oldest fighter to win a championship in any weight class at 2:03 of the 10th round. The previous oldest heavyweight champion had been Jersey Joe Walcott, a mere 37 when he knocked out Ezzard Charles in 1951.

When Moorer crashed to the canvas, a crowd of 12,127 came to its feet as one. It didn't take anyone with two eyes long to realize that Moorer was not going to get up in time.

Jubilant broke out as the fans screamed themselves silly. Foreman's younger brother, Roy, passed out in the ring and was removed on a stretcher. He later made an appearance at the post-fight press conference and appeared OK.

"It's doubtful that in his legendary career, Foreman has hit anyone any harder than he hit the 222-pound (100-kilogramme) Moorer, who went down like a rag doll."

Moorer landed 369 of 641 punches through nine rounds and connected on 259 of 450 jabs. Foreman landed 229 of 496 total punches and 115 of 268 jabs.

After the ninth round, judges Jerry Roth and Chuck Giampa each favoured Moorer 88-83, while Duane Ford favoured Moorer, but only by 86-85.

The AP card had it 89-82 for Moorer.

Foreman needed a knockout to win. Many people had questioned Foreman's right to a heavyweight championship shot since he had not fought in 17 months and had lost

that fight on points to Tommy Morrison.

Foreman shrugged off the criticism like so many jabs.

"One of these days — it may be Nov. 6 — people will be saying 'he got the title shot because he deserved it,'" Foreman said before the fight.

They were saying it Saturday night. In fact, they were shouting it — George Foreman is champion again.

No longer when Foreman's career is discussed through the years will his loss to Ali be mentioned. What will be remembered will be the fact that age 45, he became the heavyweight champion again, winning the way true champions do. With an eye closing and his back to the ropes, Foreman summoned all the strength left in his weary body and knocked out his

tormentor.

Foreman was seemingly invisible going into the fight against Ali on Oct. 30, 1974.

He never got a rematch, and after he lost to Jimmy Young in 1977, he retired to become a preacher.

He launched a comeback in 1987, he said, earn some money for his Houston Youth Centre. He fought his way to a title shot against Evander Holyfield and was outpointed April 19, 1991.

Foreman, who earned about \$1 million, improved his record to 73-4 with 68 knockouts. Since beginning his comeback in 1987, his record is 28-2 with 26 knockouts.

Moorer, of Detroit, earned \$7.5 million. He is 35-1 with 30 knockouts. This was his first defence of the title he won from Holyfield on April 22.

Navratilova, Sanchez Vicario in final

OAKLAND (Agencies) Martina Navratilova, playing in the next-to-last tournament of her 21-year career, overcame 15 aces by Debbie Graham to reach the finals of a \$400,000 WTA event Saturday.

Second seed Navratilova rallied to defeat Graham 3-6, 6-2, 7-5, to reach Sunday's final against world number two Arantxa Sanchez-Vicario of Spain, who ousted U.S. rival Lindsay Davenport 6-2, 4-6, 6-3 in the other semi-final.

Navratilova, who has lost the first set in each of her three matches here, seeks to extend her record total of 167 singles crowns.

"I just hope I don't give away that first set again," Navratilova said. "It's hard to keep digging out of that hole. I can't do that tomorrow."

Navratilova, 38, has won at least two singles titles a year since 1975, but her only triumph this year was in Paris last February.

Graham, who has never won a WTA crown in three tour seasons, served nine aces in the first set, five of them in the fourth game and three in a row during the sixth game.

"I have never seen a harder second serve," Navratilova said. "It was like men's tennis. I was doing to base-

line walk there a couple of times."

Graham, ranked 90th in the world, fell apart in the second set, suffering nine double faults, four of them in one game. She had six double faults in the final set.

"She knows how to play those big points when it gets close," Graham said. "I'm sure she gets nervous too but she just sticks with what she has been doing over the years."

Schultz, Maleeva reach final

In Quebec City, Canada second-seeded Brenda Schultz of the Netherlands and fifth seed Katerina Maleeva of Bulgaria both advanced to the final of the \$150,000 Bell Challenge tournament by prevailing in three-set matches Saturday.

Schultz defeated fourth-seeded champion Nathalie Tauziat of France 6-4, 6-7 (6-8) 6-4, while Maleeva overcame third-seeded American Chanda Rubin 4-6, 6-4, 6-3.

The Dutchwoman was in control from the service line against Tauziat, losing just 11 points in her first 11 service games and reached match point at 6-5 in the second-set tiebreak before Tauziat fought back to force a third set.

Tauziat held three break

points in a marathon third game of the final set before Schultz won on the sixth deuce.

A service break in the 10th game achieved through a sizzling backhand winner and a forehand volley putaway clinched the match for Schultz.

"It was very hard in the third set to get over losing the (second-set) tiebreak, but you have to be strong and get over those points if you want to be a top-20 player," said Schultz, who is now ranked 21.

Much as she had in defeating top-seeded Amanda Coetzer of South Africa on Friday, the 25-year-old Maleeva needed all guile and experience to triumph in the two hour and three minute match with the hardhitting, 18-year-old Rubin.

Maleeva won the final four games and took 15 of the last 18 points when Rubin suddenly became error prone.

"I've lost a lot of close three-set matches this year and I'm happy now that I've won two in a row because it shows I know how to fight," said Maleeva, whose rankings has slipped from 22 to 41 over the past 12 months.

"At 3-2 in the last set," said Rubin, "I had a two chances for 4-2 and I rushed a couple of points. Then I rushed a couple of points in the game after that."

Mavericks start on positive note

DALLAS (R) — The youthful Dallas Mavericks, the NBA's worst team last year, started the new season with a win as Jim Jackson poured in 37 points and Jamal Mashburn added 30 in a 112-103 triumph over the New Jersey Nets.

It was the first opening game win in seven years for the Mavs, who were a league-worst 13-69 last season.

"We knew we were going to hustle," said Dick Motta, who has returned to coach the Mavericks after a seven-year absence that followed a seven-year stint as the team's first coach.

"I knew that New Jersey played a tough ball game last night in Houston. We wanted to push the ball against them. Towards the end of the game, they (Nets) were tired."

Kenny Anderson had 30 points and Derrick Coleman had 18 for the Nets, who fell to 0-2.

Dallas rookie Jason Kidd, the second overall pick out of California, just missed a triple double with 10 points, 11 assists and nine rebounds in his pro debut.

In Chicago, Rex Chapman scored 26 points, including seven in overtime, as the Washington Bullets scored a

100-99 victory to snap a 15-game losing streak to the Bulls.

Chapman hit a three-pointer with 1:22 left in the extra session to give the Bulls, who have opened the season with two close wins, a 100-96 advantage.

The Bulls had a chance to win in the final seconds when Scottie Pippen drove the length of the floor, but his scoop shot hit the bottom of the rim.

In Denver, Ricky Pierce scored 25 points, including a tie-breaking jumper with 30 seconds left, lifting the visiting Golden State Warriors to a 108-104 victory over the Nuggets.

Pistons past the Hawks 114-109.

Rookie Grant Hill added 24 points for Detroit, and Mills, whose two free throws sent the game into overtime, scored 20.

Ken Norman scored 30 points and Kevin Willis had 18 points and 19 rebounds for Atlanta.

In Charlotte, Mark Price scored 27 points and handed out 11 assists as the Cleveland Cavaliers used two key runs on the way to a season-opening 115-107 victory for the T-Wolves, whose high scorer was Isaiah Rider with 18 points.

In Milwaukee, Marty Con-

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Hill upsets Schumacher in Japanese GP

SUZUKA (AFP) — British driver Damon Hill held off a last ditch charge by Michael Schumacher to win the Japanese Grand Prix Sunday as both drivers joined others in complaining about conditions.

"We shouldn't be driving in torrential rain," said Hill of the race, which was cut into two sections by a downpour which wrought havoc with the cars.

"The rain was pouring down," said Schumacher. "I was swimming in it."

The victory for Hill moved him within one point of Schumacher in the drivers' championship.

Britain's Martin Brundle spun off in the wet and hit a steward who was helping to move Gianni Morbidelli's Footwork car. The steward was taken to hospital with a broken leg and Brundle was later given a reprimand by course officials.

The driver said he had no control over his acquaplaning car.

"Unfortunately, when you touch water the way I did, there's nothing you can do," he said. "You are just a passenger."

In a communique, the steward blamed the accident mainly on "difficult circumstances and deteriorating weather conditions." But it added, "a driver must be extremely cautious when yellow flags are shown."

Gerhard Berger, the Ferrari veteran who also acts as a spokesman on safety, said the drivers would discuss the safety issue before next week's season-closing Australian Grand Prix at Adelaide.

"The safety car should have stayed on the circuit for longer," he said.

Hill, at the wheel of the Williams Renault, won by 3.365sec. His victory means the 34-year-old now has 91 points to Schumacher's 92, and their battle for the title will come down to next week's final race.

Frenchman Jean Alesi finished third in a Ferrari, 48.680 seconds back, while half of the 26-car field failed to finish, mostly due to the slippery conditions.

Former world champion Nigel Mansell, still looking for a Formula One comeback win after two years with the U.S. IndyCar tour, was fourth in the number-two Williams after a long-running battle with Alesi.

Hill said: "That's not so satisfying to race like that but it really does mean a lot to end up first. I keep telling

myself to be realistic. It is a tall order to beat Michael as this year he has been the class of the field."

Schumacher had thought an extra pit-stop for fresh tyres and fuel would have helped his Benetton Ford go faster than Hill.

It worked at the European Grand Prix at Jerez, Spain last month.

"I was feeling confident all through the weekend, and under normal circumstances the strategy we planned could have worked," said the 25-year-old, chasing Germany's first world driver's title.

"Nevertheless, I am one point ahead and looking forward to Adelaide now."

Hill clocked 1hr 55min for an average speed of 151.796

km per hour (94.342 miles per hour) on the twisty 5.86-kilometre (3.64-mile) track.

It was his sixth victory of the 16-round season against Schumacher's eight. Austrian Gerhard Berger has won one.

Schumacher took the lead from pole position, and the race was suspended by rain on the 15th lap with Schumacher leading Hill by 6.863sec.

The German again jumped in front in the second section and regained a lead on aggregate time after 35 laps although Hill was running in front after the two drivers made pit-stops.

But Schumacher had to make an extra stop for refuelling and a tyre change after 40 laps.

Borzov slams 'insufficient' dope testing

LISBON (AFP) — Valery Borzov, the Soviet Union's double sprint champion at the 1972 Olympics, slammed the sport's policy on dope-testing Saturday.

Borzov, the 100m and 200m gold medallist in Munich, and an International Olympic Committee member since last year, made his attack during a meeting of the Association of European National Olympic Committees.

Current dope testing programmes are "absolutely insufficient," he said. "We have to test every athlete at a

competition and not just the winners."

Borzov, 45, is here as head of the NOC of the Ukraine, where he is also sports minister.

"My generation of runners did not need doping," he said. "I really think that you can win a 100m in 10sec and a 200m in 20 seconds without cheating."

He blamed the money which has entered top-class athletics for the growth in drugs use.

"Doping has been brought in, and encouraged, by commercial sport," he said.

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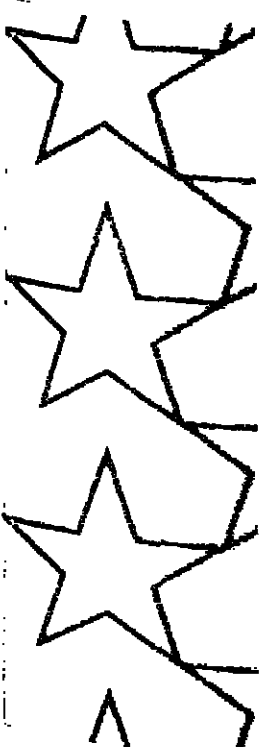
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Newcastle, Blackburn forge ahead

LONDON (AFP) — Premiership leaders Newcastle bounced back from their midweek UEFA Cup upset against Athletic Bilbao to claim a 2-1 triumph over QPR as Blackburn consolidated their position two points behind them with a 2-0 victory over troubled Tottenham.

Paul Kitson, with his first league goal, and Peter Beardsley, with a spectacular acrobatic effort, hit the target to put the Magpies in command before youngster Daniele Di Chicco reduced the deficit for Queens Park Rangers.

Worth at least a point on the day, it was an unfortunate end to a turbulent week for Rangers.

On Monday manager Gerry Francis will be discussing his future with the club after offering his resignation in midweek.

Francis said: "I'm very proud of the overall performance. In the second half we were the only team in it."

Newcastle boss Kevin Keegan admitted: "In the second half Gerry got them a better balance and they gave us a few problems."

"I think they are an excellent side and they are in a false position down at the bottom."

Steve Perryman failed to discover the winning touch in

his first game as caretaker manager as Tottenham went down at Blackburn to a first half strike by Jason Wilcox and a second-half penalty by England striker Alan Shearer — his 12th goal of the season.

On the question of who will succeed Ozzie Ardisles as the permanent manager Perryman said: "As far as I am concerned it does not matter if they sort it out sooner or later. As long as the club in the end make the right appointment."

"All I am doing is what I've been asked to do. Whatever the circumstances it is a fantastic honour to manage this club — albeit it is just for the one game."

Blackburn boss Kenny Dalglish had some sympathy for the North London club, saying: "Every team needs a little bit of luck — they are not getting much of that."

He added: "I am happy for ourselves and happy for the three points. We don't have many great problems here at the moment — everybody is working hard and we're getting our reward."

Nottingham Forest, who only lost their 24-game unbeaten run last weekend, slipped to their second successive defeat as Robbie Fowler secured Liverpool's 1-0 victory with his 14th goal of the season, claiming the goal after deflecting a Jamie Redknapp shot.

Concern charges to victory in Breeders' Classic

LOUISVILLE, Kentucky (R) — Concern, a 3-year-old who had not won a race since April, came from the back of the pack Saturday to win the \$3 million Breeders' Cup Classic at Churchill Downs, edging favourite Tabasco Cat.

Concern, ridden by Jerry Bailey at 7-1 odds, capped a day that saw three favourites and four longshots hit the winner's circle in the hotly contested seven-race, \$10 million series.

European horses continued to dominate the grass races with Baratheas, a 10-1 longshot who has been running in England and France, taking the \$1 million mile and Tikkannen, who has campaigned all over Europe, winning the \$2 million turf.

Both horses set track records on the firm, dry turf. The Irish-bred, 4-year-old Baratheas provided another jewel in the increasingly crowded crown of co-owner Sheikh Mohammed of Dubai, whose horse Carnegie won the Arc de Triomphe in Paris last month and has also won three other Breeders' Cup titles.

Baratheas's victory denied the American champion Lure an unprecedented third successive mile victory. Lure, who went off at 4-5, bid for the lead at the top of the stretch but faded as Baratheas pulled away.

Baratheas was ridden by top European jockey Frankie Dettori and trained by Luca Cumani. The horse finished fifth in last year's Breeders' Cup mile and had been training on a specially designed track in Newmarket, England, that duplicated conditions at Churchill Downs.

Tikkannen, ridden by Mike Smith and trained by Jonathan Pease, has raced in Italy, Germany, Ireland and France this year, but posted only two victories prior to Saturday's hard-charging triumph.

"He does stay very well," Pease said, "he needs a good fast pace and that's probably why he's done so well in his two trips to America."

Another European, Hatoff, swept into second in the turf, while Paradise Creek, the 4-5 favourite, was third. Paradise Creek had the lead at the top of the stretch but could not hold

off the hard-charging Europeans.

The 11th running of the world's richest series of races took place under cloudy skies on a warm, dry day before a record Breeders' Cup crowd of 71,671. The races were telecast to 16 countries around the world.

Concern, a Maryland-bred horse, had run second or third in seven races since he won the Grade 1 Arkansas Derby in April. But on Saturday he made his usual run from far back a good one to catch Tabasco Cat and win America's richest race.

"It's particularly great because he's a horse that tries hard all the time. All he needs is a decent pace and a good trip traffic-wise," said jockey Jerry Bailey.

"On the middle of the backside I thought he had a pretty good chance because I was only about 10 or 12 lengths back, which is okay for him."

The day's opening race, the \$1 million sprint, was won by Cherokee Run, the 5-2 favourite, who made a strong move from the middle of the track to outrun Soviet Problem. The English sprinter, Lochsong, who went off as the 6-1 third choice faded badly to finish last.

Flanders, ridden by Pat Day as the heaviest favourite of the day at 2-5, won the \$1 million juvenile filies, but suffered two fractures in her right front leg that will require surgery. A track veterinarian said the horse might run again.

Flanders was ridden by Pat Day and trained by D. Wayne Lukas, the all-time



Jockey Lanfranco Dettori celebrates his win atop Irish horse Baratheas during the Breeders' Cup Mile at Churchill Downs in Louisville, Kentucky (AFP photo)

leading cup trainer who broke on 0-for-20 streak for his first cup win since 1989. Another Lukas-trained horse, Timber Country, won the \$1 million juvenile, giving the California-based trainer a sweep of the 2-year-old races and his 11th and 12th cup title overall.

The 45-1 longshot One

Dreamer, ridden by Gary Stevens, won the \$1 million distaff with a wire-to-wire run that was too much for Hollywood Wood. Last year's winner, and Sky Beauty, who had not lost a race this year. In the mile, Baratheas's jockey said the horses got a perfect trip around the course.

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TAMMAM HIRSHON
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A CROCODILE IN FLORIDA

North-South vulnerable. East deals.

NORTH
♠ K 10
♥ 9 8 5
♦ 9 8 2
♣ K 10 9 3

WEST
♠ 7 5 4 2
♥ K J 4 3
♦ 8 6 4
♣ J 2

EAST
♠ J 9 8 6
♥ Q 8
♦ A K J 10 7 3
♣ Q

SOUTH
♠ A Q 3
♥ A 10 2
♦ 5
♣ A 8 7 6 5 4

The bidding:
East South West North
1♣ 2♣ Pass 3♣
Pass 5♣ Pass Pass

Opening lead: Four of Clubs.
Crocodiles open their mouths, wide to swallow their prey. The same basic idea has passed into bridge jargon as the "Crocodile Coup." Although this deal is from a rubber bridge game in Florida, alligator territory, the same principle applies.

Note South's overall of two clubs, the correct way to treat this hand. If the opponents then compete in diamonds, South can double.

next to show a hand with good support for the majors, but no more than three cards in either suit. Once North raised clubs, South decided

game would have a good chance, although a three-diamond cue-bid might have led to a laydown three-trump contract as the cards lay. West led a diamond to partner's ten and declarer ruffed the continuation. It looked as if there were two heart losers, but declarer gave the hand the old college try. Trumps were drawn in two rounds, a diamond was ruffed and three rounds of spades were cashed for a heart discard from dummy.

With the key suits eliminated, declarer cashed the ace of hearts and cried woe a heart. West followed with the jack, East won the queen, but was trapped in an endplay. The forced plain-suit return allowed declarer to discard a heart from hand while cashing on the board — making five odd.

The defense is easy for students of the crocodile. Given East's unconvincing failure to unblock the queen of hearts under the ace West must shoot up with the king on the second round of the suit, grabbing up partner's queen. Now the jack of hearts can be cashed for the setting trick.

Jockey Jerry Bailey (left) drives across the finish line aboard Concern ahead of Tabasco Cat ridden by Pat Day (right) to win the

Agassi ready to cut Rosset down to size

PARIS (AFP) — United States Open champion Andre Agassi has two reasons for cutting Swiss giant Marc Rosset down to size in the final of the lucrative \$2.25 million Paris Indoor Open.

He is determined to avenge two consecutive defeats he has suffered against the big-serving 2.01 metre Swiss player — and he will have the extra incentive of knowing that he will move up to number two in the rankings for the first time if he takes the title.

In Saturday's semi-finals, Agassi survived some last minute nerves to put out Spain's fourth seed Sergi Bruguera 6-4, 6-4.

And Rosset came back from 0-5 down in the first set to beat seventh seed Michael Chang 6-7 (4-7) 6-3, 6-4.

The 24-year-old Agassi, already assured of his place in next month's ATP World Championship finals in Frankfurt, admitted it was hard lifting his game after his superb straight-sets win over world number-one Pete Sampras 24 hours earlier.

"Sergi is a very different type of player. He stays back and runs down a lot of balls," said Agassi, who had to save four break points in the final game after squandering a 6-4, 5-2 lead.

"He's won two French Open titles and obviously it would probably have been tougher for me if we had played today on clay."

"This has been quite a year for me. I started it with my wrist in a cast and I'm very proud of what I've accomplished so far."

Rosset, who will be 24 on Monday and who seems to score a major tennis triumph whenever he crosses the border to visit France, will be hoping that his huge serve and forehand will be enough to upset the American.

They certainly came to his rescue against Chang who zipped away to a 5-0 lead after just 20 minutes.

Rosset, who won the ATP events in both Marseille and Lyon earlier this season and who put Boris Becker out of the tournament in the

quarter-finals, woke up at 15-40 and 0-5 down by slamming a service winner and three consecutive aces. He finished up with a tally of 18.

Chang, who has always had a strong following in the French capital since becoming the youngest-ever winner of the French Open title at Roland Garros in 1989, could not have got off to a better start.

Compensating for his lack of power with superb anticipation, touch and speed, he scorched clear and looked

certain to clinch a place in the final.

His stamina let him down however and he was clearly feeling the effects of his three-set victory over titleholder Goran Ivanisevic.

"It's a great feeling to be in the final," said Rosset. "I'm really pleased by the way I was able to hang in there. At the start he seemed to be reading my strokes so well I began to wonder how I was going to get past him."

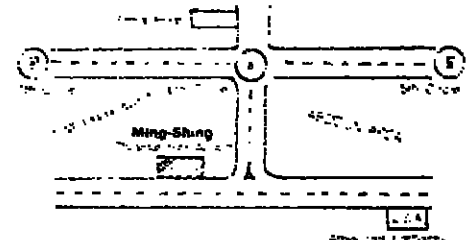
Chang, whose semi-final place has left him virtually

sure of qualifying for the elite eight-player ATP World Championships in Frankfurt next month, said he "will make a final decision, or whether or not to play in next week's Antwerp tournament later this weekend."

"It will depend on who among the top players will be playing there and on calculating whether I have enough points to make sure of my place in Frankfurt," he said, adding: "Actually I'd prefer to give it a miss and see if that's possible."

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Iranian Scuds strike rebel camp in Iraq

BAGHDAD (Agencies) — Iran fired Scud missiles across its border with Iraq early on Sunday into a camp used by exile Mujahedeen-Khalq guerrillas. A Mujahedeen spokesman said two buildings were damaged but no one was hurt.

Iraq immediately protested to the United Nations and warned that it reserved the right to self-defence.

A Foreign Ministry spokesman, quoted by the official Iraqi News Agency, accused Tehran of having "carried out a new act of aggression against Iraqi territory, by firing three Scud missiles at a target more than 80 kilometres inside Iraq."

Baghdad "reserves the right to defend itself against this Iranian aggression with appropriate means and at the right time," he said.

A strongly-worded protest letter condemning the "Iranian aggression" was sent to U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Boutros Ghali by Iraqi Foreign Minister Mohammad Said Al-Sahaf, the spokesman said.

The Foreign Ministry also handed the Iranian charge d'affaires in Baghdad a similar protest note, INA reported.

Iraq said Sunday its border guards had raided a base near the Iraqi capital used by the Mujahedeen, killing a number of rebels.

The Iranian thrust came shortly after security forces thwarted a Mujahedeen cross-border raid to sabotage oil installations in the southwestern province of Ilam, the Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) said.

But the Iraq-based group denied the report, and said instead that another of its

camp, 120 kilometres from Baghdad, had been the target of an Iranian surface-to-surface missile attack late Saturday.

The Ashraf camp was struck by four missiles, including at least one Scud-B, which has a range of 300 kilometres, the Mujahedeen said. It said they were fired from the Iranian province of Kermanshah.

Reporters taken by the Mujahideen to Ashraf camp, 80 kilometres inside Iraq and 120 kilometres northeast of Baghdad, saw two craters and debris from a dining hall and prayer area.

"There were two craters, broken glass, fallen ceilings and shrapnel and small pieces of missile in the camp," Reuters Television correspondent Ahmad Bahaddou said.

Ashraf is the main military base of the Mujahedeen, who lost out to Muslim fundamentalists in Tehran street battles after the fall of the Shah, formed a small army under Baghdad's protection and fought on Iraq's side in the 1980-88 Iran-Iraq war.

The main, tank-equipped Mujahedeen force has been inactive since, but Tehran has blamed the group for attacks on civilian targets in Iran and abroad which the Mujahedeen deny.

Tehran stayed neutral in the 1991 war over Kuwait but remains on frigid terms with Baghdad and plays host to Shiite Muslim rebels who mount guerrilla raids in southern Iraq.

IRNA reported that Iranian border guards pursued Mujahedeen raiders into Iraq after a frontier shootout in which two infiltrators were killed and two border guards

wounded, one critically. The agency said two teams of infiltrators armed with automatic weapons, seven men in all, were intercepted near the Iranian border town of Musiyan in Ilam province on their way "to bomb oil pipelines."

The guards pursued the fleeing survivors into Iraq and attacked Mujahedeen base in the "Abu Ghuraib region" near Baghdad early Sunday, IRNA said.

It claimed a "number of terrorists were killed" and heavy damage inflicted on the installation.

Abu Ghuraib is west of the heavily defended Iraqi capital, which lies 240 kilometres west of Musiyan. The IRNA report gave no indication how the border guards were able to travel so deep into eastern Iraq and then get out again without being detected by security forces.

Sunday's reported missile attack followed a U.S. State Department report issued by the House Foreign Affairs Committee Oct. 31 that branded the Mujahedeen as a Marxist-oriented, anti-American stooge of Iraq.

The report said the Mujahedeen has a record of "Undemocratic behaviour," including assassinations, kidnappings, terrorism, armed revolution and suppression of dissent.

The Mujahedeen branded the report as "bias and absurd" and said it gave "a green light" to Tehran for Sunday's attack.

Several members of the U.S. Congress, where the Mujahedeen have some support for their campaign to overthrow the Tehran regime, criticised the report.



HEATED DEBATE: Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali and Deputy Prime Minister Thounqan Hindawi listen as deputies debate the Jordanian-Israeli peace treaty before

voting it in 55-23 on Sunday in the Lower House of Parliament (see page one) (Photo by Youssef Al 'Allam)

Israel opens Hebron's massacre mosque today

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AFP) — Israel will reopen Hebron's Ibrahim Mosque on Monday to test new security keeping Muslims and Jews apart, eight months after a settler murdered more than 30 Palestinians there, officials said.

Despite Muslim protests the cabinet voted Sunday to allow the faithful to return to the complex where Baruch Goldstein opened fire in a crowded mosque on Feb. 25.

Communications Minister Shulamit Aloni abstained saying the separation created "equality" at the site which has been in Muslim hands for centuries.

She feared that hardline Jews would now seek to turn the whole fortress-like compound into a synagogue.

Muslim clerics complained about building alterations carried out without consultation, even though Islamic administrators manage the site.

The West Bank leader of the Palestine Liberation Organisation, Faisal Hussein, joined their protests and warned "anything could happen" in the tense city.

"Anything is possible, not because people will return to pray but because the Israelis still occupy Hebron and the

settlers continue to provoke Palestinians in the city," he told AFP.

He criticised the failure to consult Palestinians. "All the changes made at the mosque have been carried out unilaterally by the Israelis."

Hebron Mayor Mustafa Natshe, who was given a guided tour of the site by the army on Sunday, said: "It is an Islamic place of prayer which should not be shared by Jews."

"The Muslims should be the ones to control it." But he said there would be no demonstrations on Monday and Muslims would return to pray there.

The site was to open for two days, then shut again for a security review before being opened again for good.

A 200-strong unit of border guards aided by closed circuit television cameras now protects the fortress-like compound where Jews will use the main entrance and Muslims a side gate.

No more than 300 from each faith will be allowed in at any one time. Some 120,000 Palestinians live in Hebron, where about 450 Jews have also settled under the protection of nearly 1,000 soldiers.

Algerian regime on intense offensive

ALGIERS (AFP) — Algerian security forces have killed at least 12 armed extremists in an intensified offensive against the fundamentalist insurgency, heralding a new, more brutal phase in the 33-month conflict.

According to official tolls, the losses cover government operations in the five days to Sunday. They are the largest suffered by the fundamentalist camp since it launched its bloody insurgency against the secular military-backed authorities in February 1992.

The accelerated government offensive comes a week after a breakdown in peace talks between President Liamine Zeroul and the leaders of the outlawed Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) spearheading the insurgency.

The series of raids also followed a fundamentalist bomb attack Tuesday that killed four children, sparking widespread outrage among a population largely injured to the bloodshed of guerrilla warfare.

Announcing last week the holding of presidential elections before the end of 1995, Mr. Zeroul pledged to lead the battle to "eradicate terrorism and violence" from Algeria, and paid tribute to

the 140,000-strong armed forces in the firing line.

With unofficial figures indicating more than 500 fundamentalists killed over the last two months, the new offensive has been marked by a brutal reluctance to take prisoners.

On Friday, troops stormed a villa in the Eucalyptus district of Algiers, killing eight fundamentalist guerrillas, officials said.

Starting Wednesday, a 13-man fundamentalist commando was wiped out in a 36-hour siege of a building in central Algiers.

In the fundamentalist stronghold of Jijel, 250 kilometres east of the capital, security forces killed 20 guerrillas.

Security forces also killed another 33 armed Islamic militants in an operation in the Hachachta forest, western Algeria.

The forest lies about 30 kilometres from the city of Mostaganem, where a fundamentalist bomb Tuesday killed four boy scouts and wounded 18 others at a ceremony to commemorate the 40th anniversary of the start of Algeria's war for independence from France.

Ciller visit to Orient House kindles new Jerusalem row

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — The Palestinian National Authority (PNA) said on Sunday a visit by Turkish Prime Minister Tansu Ciller to its East Jerusalem headquarters bolstered the Palestinians' claim to the city as their capital.

Israel expressed anger at Saturday's barring by Palestinian security men of Ms. Ciller's Israeli bodyguards at the entrance to Orient House, where Palestinians often play host to foreign dignitaries.

"A Palestinian security man cannot say 'this is my territory'," Foreign Minister Shimon Peres told Israel Radio. "No one gave him any such territory. No one gave him that kind of authority."

The authority quoted Faisal Al Hussein, the top Palestinian Liberation Organisation (PLO) official in Jerusalem, as saying: "This visit... proved the Palestinian position concerning East Jerusalem as the future capital of the Palestinian state."

Right-wing Israeli politicians, commenting on Mr. Ciller's visit, demanded the government shut down Orient House.

Ciller left Israel on Saturday night after a three-day official visit.

Opposition Likud leader Benjamin Netanyahu said in a statement to the press that the Orient House, which was founded in 1992 as a combination foreign ministry and city hall, should be closed "immediately."

"The PLO is actually controlling an extraterritorial bubble in Jerusalem and continues to open more and more offices, damaging Israeli sovereignty in the city," said Mr. Netanyahu. "This cannot be allowed to happen."

U.S. President Bill Clinton avoided creating a similar problem during a visit to Israel last month when he cancelled tentative plans to visit holy sites in the Old City.

Newspapers quoted Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin as

saying the Turkish leader's visit was misguided but stressed that Israeli-Turkish relations would not be harmed.

"It was the first visit, and an unprecedented one. So we are much more forgiving," Mr. Peres said on army radio. "It is a very regrettable decision," Mr. Rabin told reporters after Ms. Ciller met Mr. Hussein.

"It is a shame that Mrs. Ciller agreed to do so but it will not damage relations between Israel and Turkey," he said.

A defiant Hussein said: "We took the initiative of inviting Mrs. Ciller. It was not the first time and will not be the last time we do this. We spoke about the peace process and the question of Jerusalem."

Mr. Peres pointed out that the Palestinians do not enjoy diplomatic status at Orient House and cannot have access to the Israel police.

But he added: "We understand that Turkey wants to have good relations both with Israel and the Palestinians."

Hamas offers conditional end to its attacks against Israelis

Combined agency dispatches HE Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, said Sunday it was ready to halt attacks on Israeli civilians if Israeli government stops launching Palestinian. Ibrahim Ghosheh, Jordan-based spokesman for Hamas, said his group will not enter direct talks with Israel, it was prepared to negotiate through a "third party."

But he stressed that even if Hamas does stop attacking Israeli civilians it will "continue its military operations against Israeli military installations until the Israeli occupation of our land ends."

Mr. Ghosheh's comments, tried by the Associated Press, came amid suggestions several members of Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin's cabinet that the government could enter a dialogue with Hamas, which has intensified attacks against Israelis in recent months.

Mr. Ghosheh said the "redline" Al Qassam brigades, Hamas' military wing, stop attacks against Israeli civilians if "the Israeli army, settlers and undercover agents halt their killing of Palestinian civilians."

"The ball's now in Rabin's court," he said. Hamas opposes the October 1993 autonomy accord signed between Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and has

vowed to wreck Palestinian self-rule launched in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank town of Jericho in May.

The group claimed three attacks last month, killing 25 Israelis, including 22 in a suicide bombing in Tel Aviv. On Saturday, Mr. Rabin said he was ready to enter a dialogue with Hamas if it renounced violence and recognised the Jewish state.

However, he said, it would be "a miracle" if Hamas changed its violent ways. Until that happened, he said, "we will fight them with all our might within the limits of the law."

Conflicting signals have come from Hamas leaders on the group's strategy in the wake of the implementation of autonomy.

Several Hamas leaders in the West Bank and Gaza have hinted that the group might take part in elections for a Palestinian self-rule council as called for by the Israel-PLO accord.

But others, including Mr. Ghosheh, argue that Hamas would field candidates only if the elections were for a legislative body which will guide the Palestinian quest for independence and that the poll was held under United Nations supervision.

Responding to Mr. Rabin's latest comments, Mr. Ghosheh said: "Hamas will never accept direct talks with

Rabin. But we are ready to accept negotiations through third parties like the International Red Cross."

The negotiations, he said, will aim at an agreement to stop Hamas attacks on Israelis in return for Israel stopping what Hamas sees as a campaign to annihilate Palestinian activists.

Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres said on Sunday the only dialogue possible with Hamas was violence as long as the group "talked to us with rifles."

"Until now, Hamas has talked to us with rifles. What kind of dialogue can you have with rifles?" Mr. Peres said on Israel Radio.

"As long as that is the content, then the dialogue that will be conducted, to my great sorrow, will be a violent dialogue."

Despite the tough talk, some Israeli officials have said that if Hamas changed its policies Israel might enter negotiations.

Deputy Defence Minister Mordechai Gur said on Saturday he did not rule out negotiating with Hamas members if they were elected to the Palestinian self-rule council.

"Hamas and Islamic Jihad are currently the enemies of peace, and murderers of Israelis," Mr. Rabin said (Continued on page 3)

NEWS IN BRIEF

Israel expects self-rule talks to resume this week

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Israel expects autonomy talks with the Palestinians to resume in Cairo on Wednesday or Thursday, a military spokeswoman told AFP on Sunday. "We hope the talks will resume this week, maybe Wednesday or Thursday, but it has not been finalised yet," said Captain Hanneh Jeshurun. On Tuesday, Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat are to meet at the Erez crossing between Israel and the autonomous Gaza Strip. The autonomy negotiations have bogged down over the long-delayed elections to an autonomy council. Israel has refused to discuss the redeployment of troops outside built-up areas on the West Bank until the question of elections is settled. Under the declaration of principles for self-rule, the redeployment is scheduled to be completed by the eve of elections, which Palestinians have admitted will not be held before next year.

Saddam meets Nigerian oil minister

NICOSIA (AFP) — Iraqi President Saddam Hussein held talks with Nigerian Oil Minister Alhaji Umaru Baba during the minister's visit to Baghdad, the official Iraqi News Agency (INA) reported Sunday. Mr. Umaru Baba gave President Saddam a message from Nigerian President Sani Abacha on "bilateral relations and issues concerning both countries," said INA. It did not say when the meeting took place. Iraqi Foreign Minister Mohammad Said Al-Sahaf and Oil Minister Safaa Hadi Jawad also attended the meeting. The Nigerian oil minister visited the stands of the Iraqi Oil Ministry and the Office of Military Industrialisation at the Baghdad fair, where he saw models showing the destruction of oil installations during the 1991 Gulf war and reconstruction projects. Mr. Umaru Baba has already visited several Gulf states in a bid to gain support for Nigeria's candidature for the post of secretary-general of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC). Mr. Jawad attends all meetings of the 12-nation oil cartel despite the international embargo on Iraq oil sales, imposed by the United Nations after Baghdad's 1990 invasion of Kuwait.

Thousands desert Iraqi army — opposition

NICOSIA (AP) — More than 67,000 Iraqi soldiers have deserted in recent months despite the Baghdad regime's efforts to stanch the exodus by ordering the ears cut off all captured deserters, an Iraqi opposition group claimed Sunday. Iran's official Islamic Republic News Agency, monitored in Nicosia, quoted sources close to the Tehran-based Supreme Council of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq as saying the desertion rate in the 400,000-strong military has sharply increased in recent weeks. There was no independent verification of the report. But in September, other Iraqi dissident sources estimated that 400 to 500 soldiers were deserting every month. The sources gave no details, but said most of the deserters were from infantry units.

Japan's crown prince arrives in S. Arabia

RIYADH (AP) — Japanese Crown Prince Naruhito and his wife Princess Masako arrived Sunday on the first leg of a Gulf tour that also will take them to Oman, Qatar and Bahrain. Saudi Crown Prince Abdullah and Defence Minister Prince Sultan led a long list of the kingdom's royalty to give the Japanese visitors a red carpet welcome.

Lebanon: Time right to crush SLA

Beirut (R) — Lebanon's pro-Iranian Hizbollah group has said it sees a good chance to try to crush Israeli-backed South Lebanon Army (SLA) militia. "We will make efforts to crush this army, its symbols and leaders," the group's secretary-general Sheikh Hassan Nasrallah, told a group of guerrillas on Saturday. "There is an appropriate chance for that." The 3,500-strong SLA police 15-kilometre wide "security zone" occupied by Israeli forces in South Lebanon. Hizbollah guerrillas, trained equipped and financed by Tehran, launch several attacks every week against the zone. In the past few months they targeted several top SLA officers, killing at least three. "The collapse of the army of agent (SLA commander General Antoine) Lahd will call on the Zionist enemy to increase its direct presence and this give us a bigger chance to crush the enemy," Sheikh Nasrallah said.

Date of Islamic summit advanced

JEDDAH (AP) — Next month's pan-Islamic summit conference in Morocco has been moved forward by a few days, the secretary-general of the Organisation of the Islamic Conference (OIC) announced Sunday. Hamid Al Ghabid, head of the Jeddah-based, 51-member OIC, said that instead of Dec. 16-18, the summit would meet Dec. 13-16. Other OIC sources said the date was changed because other important events fell in some Muslim states around the meeting schedule, including the annual summit conference of the Saudi-led group of countries in the Gulf Cooperation Council. The OIC foreign ministers, as well, will meet a few days before to prepare for the summit. Their meeting is now scheduled for Dec. 10-11, the sources said.

Rushdie wants havens for persecuted writers

STRASBOURG, France (R) — British author Salman Rushdie, who is under an Iranian death threat, called on cities around the world on Sunday to provide havens for persecuted writers. He said town councils should help the writers get residence permits and provide them with housing and a 10,000-franc (\$2,000) monthly allowance for a year. "The idea is not only to ensure the writers' freedom to write, but to allow them to eat out, go dancing or pick up girls," Mr. Rushdie told a meeting of the International Parliament of Writers in the eastern French town of Strasbourg. Mr. Rushdie, who has been in hiding since he was accused of blaspheming Islam in his book "Satanic verses" and ordered killed in 1989 by Iran's late Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, is president of the group of about 300 writers.

COLUMN

Prince Andrew to visit Argentina

BUENOS AIRES (AFP) — Britain's Prince Andrew will pay the first official visit to Argentina by a member of the British royal family since the Falklands War of 1982, in which the Duke of York himself took part. The British embassy here confirmed Saturday that the official visit would take place Nov. 15-17. Argentina and Britain re-established diplomatic relations in 1990. The prince is scheduled to meet with President Carlos Menem at the Olivos presidential residence on Nov. 15, the embassy said. He also will take part in the commercial launch of the British-made Range Rover here at a ceremony in the embassy garden. The Duke of York also is scheduled to visit an antibiotics plant outside the capital, to stop by the navy frigate Sarmiento and attend a Royal British Legion reception. He was also to visit military bases in Bahia Blanca, about 700 kilometres (430 miles) south of Buenos Aires. After his official duties are completed, the prince is to stay on for a private visit with Susan Barrante, the mother of his estranged wife Sarah Ferguson, at her ranch some 300 kilometres (185 miles) west of the capital.

94-year-old sentenced to 7 years in jail

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. (AP) — A 94-year-old career criminal has gotten his wish: He's heading back to prison. Wesley "Pop" Honeywood was sentenced to serve seven years. He pleaded guilty in October to pointing an unloaded gun at a man who warned him not to eat grapes growing in the man's yard. At the time of his arrest for armed assault and possession of a firearm by a felon. He was on probation for attempting sexual battery on a 7-year-old girl. After Mr. Honeywood does three years, the judge said, he should be released to serve four years under house arrest. To Honeywood, that beat the alternative — a nursing home. "If I go to jail, I may be out in a couple of years," Mr. Honeywood said last month. "If I go to a nursing home, I may be there the rest of my life." Lawyer Debra Wheaton said Friday that her client still felt that way. The judge could have sent Mr. Honeywood home, sentenced him to as much as 60 years in prison as a habitual offender, added up to 12 more years on the sexual battery count, or sent him to a nursing home. Since 1946, Mr. Honeywood has been charged with 46 crimes, convicted of five felonies, placed on probation three times and served eight prison sentences.

Eiffel Tower reopens to public

PARIS (AFP) — The Eiffel Tower, the central Paris landmark and major tourist attraction, reopened after being closed for 32 hours by a strike by employees demanding extra staff. As the strike ended at 6:00 p.m. (1700 GMT), a banner wrapped around the bust of Eiffel Tower builder Gustave Eiffel, proclaiming "Gustave is with us," was taken down and 160 people who work in the monument took elevators up to their posts. Tourists immediately took to the reopened entrance windows to pay their way for the ride up the tower. The unions had contended that the staff employed at the tower could not cope with the 20,000 daily visitors. Strikers said they had won a pledge for the management to hire more workers.

Legless paratrooper reenlists, jumps again

FORT BRAGG, North Carolina (AFP) — A paratrooper who lost both legs on a jump almost nine months ago has become the first to reenlist, and jumped from an aircraft again. Sergeant First Class Dana Bowman, 32, took his oath Friday in an aircraft of the Golden Knights parachute squad at the military base here that headquarters the elite army 82nd Airborne Division and the Special Forces, dubbed the Green Berets.

